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Inos to hold second townhall meeting today. PAGE 2
New budget for CNMI Head Start operation OK'd. PAGE 5

NMC gets 18-month reprieve

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» USDOE wants NMC to be under only one accrediting body by deadline
» Return, repayment of previous Pell grants nixed
» Students, parents express relief

The U.S. Department of Education yesterday gave the Northern Marianas College an 18-month reprieve to continue using federal financial aid received under Title IV funds not only for its associate degree students but also for those enrolled in the college's only baccalaureate program.

NMC officials led by president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., confirmed this in a news briefing yesterday, adding that the decision was received after a teleconference yesterday morning with USDOE officials.

NMC was earlier notified that its only baccalaureate program will no longer be allowed to use Title IV funds after NMC was found to have dual accreditation, a violation of USDOE policies. In addition to the termination of federal financial assistance, the college also faced the possibility of being made to repay all the funds its baccalaureate program obtained since the start.

Hart said that NMC has been granted both its requests for an extension and nonpayment of the previous financial aids under Title IV, totaling $7.097 million since 2001.

"We are very pleased to announce that we did a conference call this morning from USDOE officials who have given us the great news that NMC has

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Crunch time to pass budget, bills

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Retirement Fund settlement deal adds to worries

Senators are poised to alter provisions in the House-approved $123.4-million budget bill for fiscal year 2014 and bring the spending measure closer to Gov. Eloy S. Inos' proposal, likely triggering a conference committee barely six weeks before the Sept. 30 deadline.

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Only a "Support our Troops" drop box and a reporter in the Senate gallery witness a Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee's hearing on the Department of Corrections' fiscal year 2014 budget yesterday on Capital Hill. A spending measure has yet to clear both houses, barely six weeks to go before the deadline to pass a budget and a need to also quickly pass a supplemental budget to pump more money into the NMI Retirement Fund under the tentatively approved settlement deal.

'Past 2 years an amazing time to be a journalist'

» Tina Sablan: From lawmaker to journalist to student

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

When an chance to work as a broadcast journalist presented itself in 2011, former representative Tina Sablan decided to give it a shot and has since been a witness to—and reporter of—CNMI history unfolding.

"These past two years have certainly been exciting times in the CNMI, and an amazing time to be a journalist," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* after a two-year stint as reporter with KSPN 2.

Looking back on the issues covered in the last few years, she said the overarching theme that comes to mind "is not just the evidence of official misconduct, waste or cor-

Sablan

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Torres: Ayuyu resigning before next session

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) reiterated yesterday that Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) will be turning in his resignation letter—this time before the next Senate session set for Monday or Thursday next week.

Ayuyu has been on Rota since being temporarily released from jail.

"I spoke to him and he said he will be turning in his letter before the next session," Torres told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview.

He also said he does not have the authority to

Ayuyu

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Sen. Rubio warns that Obama could act to legalize immigrants.
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Mars food study researchers emerge from dome after four months.
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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Are you satisfied with the settlement agreement reached in Betty Johnson's class suit versus the NMI Retirement Fund?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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Local

Inos to hold second townhall meeting on Fund settlement deal today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos will hold today his second townhall meeting to discuss and answer questions from the public about the tentatively approved NMI Retirement Fund settlement deal that he hopes will get final approval so it won't return to litigation.

Inos

Without a final settlement agreement, the pension agency's funds may be depleted much faster than anticipated, he said Tuesday.

Today's townhall meeting—a rarity among CNMI governors—will be at the Garapan Elementary School cafeteria starting at 5:30pm.

Inos and other officials will explain the benefits of the Betty Johnson-Fund-CNMI government settlement deal.

Members of the public will also have a chance to ask the governor and other officials questions about the settlement agreement.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the Office of the Governor will also be coordinating meetings on Tinian and Rota.

"Further information as to future meeting schedules and locations will be announced in the coming days," he said.

Understanding the settlement deal

The governor not only wants the public to understand the settlement deal but also for them to support it, so it can move forward.

Under the tentatively approved agreement, the government is required to make minimum annual payments to the settlement fund to sustain payments of 75 percent of full benefits to all class members.

If the CNMI economy improves to a point where 17 percent of the total annual revenue is greater than the minimum annual payment, the government will be required to pay the greater amount.

The annual payments will go to the settlement fund and may be used only for the benefit of class members.

"Those who opt out will not have any right to payments from the settlement fund. Those who opt out will have to enforce their rights at their own expense," the administration said.

If the government does not make payments as required under the settlement agreement, the class members are protected by a $779 million consent judgment that may be enforced.

Those who opt out of the class will not be protected by the consent judgment.

Inos said on Tuesday that the government will do its best to comply with the provisions of the settlement agreement.

Guaranteed 75 pct.

The tentatively approved settlement deal guarantees that class members will receive at least 75 percent of their full benefit payments.

"Nothing in the settlement prevents the government from paying more than that amount," the administration said.

Furthermore, if the government pays benefits that are greater than 75 percent to a person who opts out of the class, the government will be required to pay the class members that greater benefit amount as well.

"This guarantees that class members will not receive less than a person who opts out of the settlement class," the admin-

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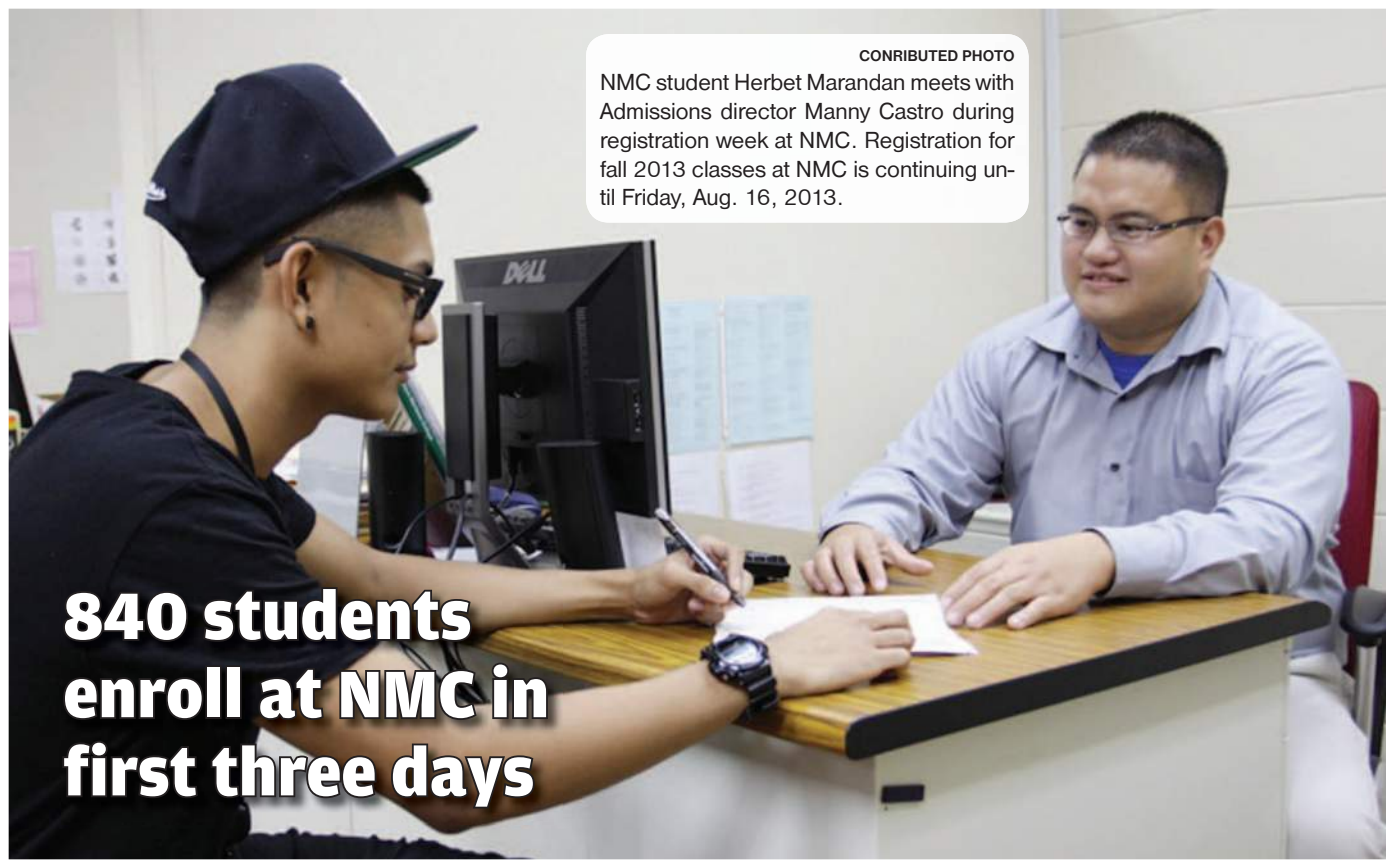
CONRIBUTED PHOTO
NMC student Herbet Marandan meets with Admissions director Manny Castro during registration week at NMC. Registration for fall 2013 classes at NMC is continuing until Friday, Aug. 16, 2013.

840 students enroll at NMC in first three days

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College registered a total of 840 students in the first few days of the weeklong registration on campus, based on the preliminary records of the institution.

The total, as of 3pm yesterday, is expected to increase until the enrolment season ends on Friday, Aug. 16. The 840 enrollees are all full time student.

In an interview yesterday, Student Services dean Leo Pangelinan disclosed that the college has been consistently posting strong enrolment in the last five years; the same is expected this new semester. He revealed that as of yesterday morning alone, the initial enrollment figure was at 750 but jumped to 840 by 3pm. NMC has two more days left in its registration period.

"We're always hoping for the best case scenario. With this incredible good news today, we're hoping that we will have a strong enrolment number like what we are experiencing for the past five years," said Pangelinan, alluding to the decision by the U.S. Department of Education to give NMC an 18-month extension to use Title IV funds for its baccalaureate students. ***See story on Page 1.***

NMC has an average number enrollees of 1,200 each semester, according to Pangelinan.

School of Education director Charlotte Cepeda told *Saipan Tribune* that her department alone has an average enrollment of 300 to 350 per semester.

Pangelinan said that many factors encourage students to enroll at the college.

"We have engaged many students through various activities through the College Access Challenge Grant Program, including the Start Smart Seminars held last year on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian. We've also had multiple information sessions where NMC asked current students to share their experiences with the community. We also hosted the highly successful Cash for College Seminar, which was aimed at helping students find financial assistance to pay for their college expenses," said Pangelinan, adding that more than 400 students attended the last Cash for College event.

Non-credit programs

Besides its academic programs, it is also important to look at the college's non-credit programs that continue to serve a great number of students, said NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D.

She cited the Adult Basic Education program and the apprenticeship program.

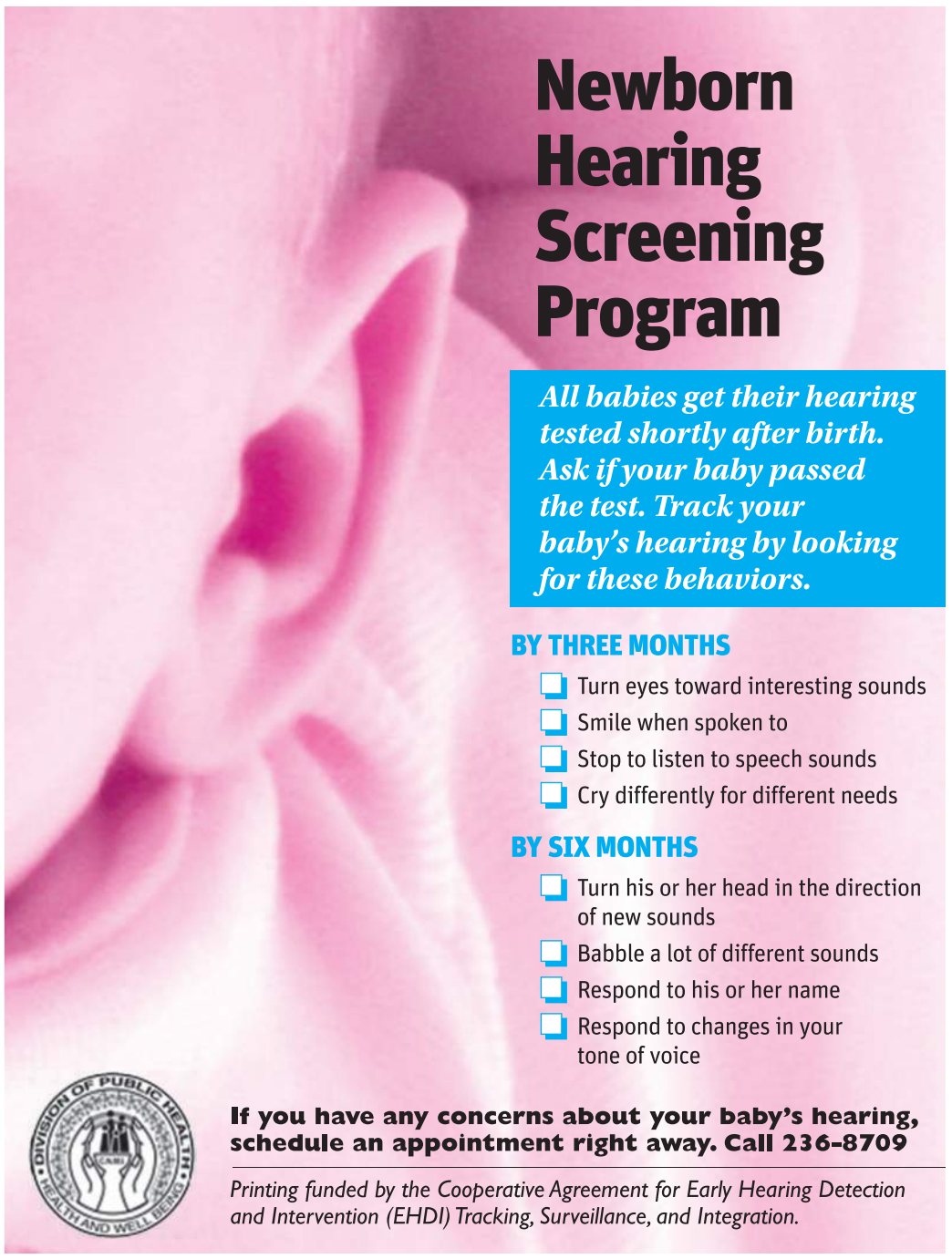
"While it is important that we look at the number of students served under our credit programs, it is equally important that we look at the numbers served in our non-credit programs like the Community Development Institute and the Adult Basic Education Program. In the last few years, the college served thousands of individuals in these non-credit programs," she said.

Hart also noted that the college received an overwhelming response to the announcement of its Workforce and Apprenticeship Program, as close to 300 students are in attendance for the first series of classes that are being held on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

For David Attao, NMC dean of Administration and Resources Development, this is just the beginning for the program as they are expecting additional enrollees for the next sessions as the college expand classes and training opportunities.

The first series of workshops—titled "Workforce L.I.F.E." and developed for CNMI residents and eligible U.S. citizens—began last week at NMC's campus in As Terlaje, as well as on NMC instructional sites on Rota and Tinian. The workforce development initiative provides participants a Lead Into Future Experiences (L.I.F.E) and aims to prepare youth and adults to be prepared and trained for meaningful careers.

"The workshops that have been organized are modeled after the U.S. Department of Labor's Apprenticeship Program's Pathways Pledge that focuses on three areas a person needs to develop while preparing for a career," added Attao.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Bank's motion to compel Flores to produce tax records denied

The federal court denied yesterday Union Bank's motion to compel Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores to produce all his tax records that the bank wants to see in connection with his lawsuit over an allegedly missing $200,000 time certificate of deposit.

After hearing opposing arguments, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied Union Bank's motion to compel but granted the bank's motion for attorney's fees and costs.

Manglona ordered Union Bank to submit fees and costs for her approval after Flores' review for any objections.

The judge is expected to issue a written order on her ruling.

Flores appeared with his counsel, attorney Juan T. Lizama. Attorneys Sean Frink and Catherine Cachero appeared on behalf of Union Bank.

Flores filed the lawsuit against Union Bank of California and the First Hawaiian Bank in 2011 for allegedly refusing to return the principal and interest earned on a $200,000 TCD that he purchased from the then Saipan branch of Union Bank in 1993.

Union Bank had asked the court for an order compelling Flores to produce all tax records in response to the bank's discovery requests, or if no such document exists, to indicate that this is the case.

In Union Bank's motion, Frink and Cachero said that Flores essentially claims in his lawsuit that he never cashed the 32-day TCD and that when he found the original TCD 15 years later, Union Bank refused to honor it.

Frink and Cachero said that Union Bank disputes many of Flores' claims and has found a former employee who recalls that the TCD was cashed many years ago without requiring Flores to present the original TCD, in order to assist him with his then looming financial hardship.

Because Union Bank closed its branches in the CNMI in 2001 and because of standard bank policies and practices on retention of records, documents relating to these events are lacking, the two lawyers said.

JOURNALIST

From Page 1

ruption that the media helped expose, but also the various ways that abusers of power are now being held accountable."

"That is an equally important part of the story that is still unfolding here," added Sablan, the *Saipan Tribune*'s 2008 "Person of the Year."

Christina-Marie E. Sablan, or Tina Sablan as she is popularly known, will be leaving the CNMI on Aug. 18 to pursue urban planning at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Although it's a two-year program, she intends to return home between semesters.

She has a bachelor's degree in conservation science from the College of Santa Fe in New Mexico where she graduated summa cum laude in 2003.

Sablan didn't have a background in broadcast journalism but has become a force to reckon with in the local news media through her eagerness to learn, perseverance, hard work, broad knowledge of CNMI issues, ability to develop sources and a natural "nose for news."

"It was certainly eye-opening to me to experience firsthand how the news is made—what obstacles reporters must often overcome to get information and present it to the public, what a challenge it can be to bring together facts, commentary, documents, and images to develop a story that is fair, accurate, and engaging," she said.

She enjoyed the challenge and came to appreciate the tremendous power of video in telling a story.

Sablan covered the courts, the police beat and other assignments rain or shine, day or night.

The former lawmaker made her mark when she captured on video former attorney general Edward Buckingham's haphazard exit from the CNMI to avoid—albeit unsuccessfully—being served a penal summons, with the help of police and ports police officers in August 2012. That came to be known as "Buckingham-gate."

Buckingham, police and ports police officials ignored her questions at the airport and was harassed in the process, but her coverage stirred broader awareness of the questionable ways some CNMI government officials operate.

"The Buckingham escort was just one incident in a long train of questionable acts that seemed to point to a pattern of abuse, arising from years of very little accountability," Sablan said.

Before "Buckingham-gate," there was the release of a federal detainee to give former governor Benigno R. Fitial a massage; hosting of political gatherings by government officials including Buckingham using government resources; questionable awards of sole-source contracts; investigations of top government officials that were kept under seal; emergency declarations that became part of the normal course of business; and various breaches of the law both big and small that developed into a culture of impunity.

"That story was followed days later by the *Saipan Tribune*'s breaking news of the $190 million sole-sourced power contract with SDLLC—and it was that deal, I think, that was the tipping point for many folks who decided they had had enough," Sablan said.

Shortly thereafter, the House minority members at the time led by now House Speaker Joe Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) filed a historic resolution impeaching Fitial for corruption, felony, and neglect of duty.

"Everything that followed was like an awakening, and a reckoning: the impeachment proceedings, the citizen rallies for clean government, the taxpayer lawsuit filed by lawmakers to enjoin the power deal, the appointment of a new police commissioner whose declared mission was to restore trust in his department, the overwhelming election results in favor of candidates who stood for change, the special prosecutor's filing of criminal charges against law enforcement officials and the former governor—the list goes on and on," Sablan said.

Lessons learned

After college, Sablan went back to the CNMI to become a middle school science teacher at Whispering Palms School and later as environmental specialist and coordinator at the Division of Environmental Quality.

Her "Commonwealth manifesto: A call to action," catapulted her into the local political scene. She began organizing public forums to discuss a wide range of topics to help raise awareness of the issues and translate that awareness into actions.

She was elected as a member of the 16th CNMI House of Representatives, and continued

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INOS

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istration added.

Depending on how soon and how much the Legislature and the administration are able to appropriate from revenue-generating measures, the 25 percent pension cut will be restored starting with those receiving the least amount of annual pensions.

For example, a retiree getting $6,000 in annual pension and is subject to the across-the-board 25 percent cut will be among the first ones to receive the restoration of that cut compared to those getting $80,000 or more a year.

The Inos administration is now drafting a bill for endorsement to the House, creating a special fund for the restoration of the pension cut as well as interest payment for those that have withdrawn their Fund contributions.

Health, life insurance

Under the settlement deal, class members will continue to be covered by the government's group health and life insurance.

They are also guaranteed to receive the same health and life insurance benefits that the government provides for current employees.

"The government will pay the employer's share for all class members from the general fund and not from the settlement fund," the administration said.

The governor said on Tuesday that besides the $25 million in required government remittance to the Fund in fiscal year 2014, the government also has to cough up $7 million to $9 million for the group health and life insurance plan.

Withdrawals

The Retirement Fund is in the process of disbursing the first $10 million to those who elected to terminate membership and have signed a waiver.

The remainder of the employee contributions will be disbursed upon final approval of the settlement agreement.

"The government will pay for interest from the general fund and must determine how and when to pay it," the administration said.

If it fails...

If the U.S. District Court does not grant final approval or if the settlement agreement fails, the parties will return to litigation of the case as it was on June 26, 2013, and proceed as if there were never a settlement agreement.

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Games Start: 2:00pm to Sunset
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JOURNALIST

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her advocacy for an open and transparent government, among other things.

After politics, she worked as program manager at the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

In June 2011, when two KSPN 2 reporters were making plans to leave the station, Sablan was offered the job.

"Truthfully, I hadn't ever considered journalism before, but it seemed like an intriguing opportunity. I was ready to do something different, and decided to give it a shot. I'm glad I did," she said.

Sablan, Mt. Carmel School's 2013 "Distinguished Graduate of the Year," said she didn't expect to love her job at KSPN 2 as much as she did.

"Every day was interesting, and even on 'slow' news days I was mentally engaged, chasing after some kind of lead, meeting new people, finding satisfaction in the work I was doing, and generally having a blast with a terrific news team. I will miss all of that," she said.

Among the best parts about being a journalist, she said, has been in the feedback she would get from their viewers about the stories they ran—whether they agreed or disagreed, felt inspired or disturbed, questioned something they'd always taken for granted, or learned something new.

"And of course, I always loved it whenever an investigative piece we ran led to more tips, more leads, more people coming forward to share information they believed was critical to the story," she added.

Empathy—that's one of the most important lessons she said she has learned in journalism.

"Being on camera is an unnerving experience for many people, and I tried to be cognizant of that whenever I was covering stories that were uncomfortable to begin with, especially when I was dealing with victims of crime, or, for that matter, people accused of crimes, or when I was trying to get answers to questions that I knew were difficult or potentially embarrassing to answer," she said.

Sablan never worked in journalism anywhere else, but she said she got the distinct impression that the level of camaraderie among reporters from different media outlets in the CNMI is pretty unique.

"There's a bit of friendly competition, of course, in terms of getting the 'scoop' but I have to say I've really enjoyed the collegiality, the lively conversations, the sincere passion, and sense of responsibility that I think we all felt in doing our jobs and keeping the community informed and engaged," Sablan said.

Sablan left KSPN 2 barely a month after her fellow KSPN 2 reporter and friend, Meghan Bragg, went back to New York. Bragg later landed another reporting job in Nebraska.

Sablan said the story that doesn't often get told is about "the incredibly important role that whistleblowers and concerned citizens play in getting the news out there, holding our government accountable, and keeping the community informed."

"I will forever respect the many, many people who called in tips, raised questions, leaked documents, passed on video or audio recordings, or otherwise took the time to share with me and with other reporters information and insight that helped us to better understand and better explain the issues of the day. They often did so at great personal risk, because they wanted a better government, a better community, a better future. They know who they are, and I thank them," she added.

CRUNCH

From Page 1

Besides a new budget, a "supplemental" budget also needs swift passage to meet the $25 million that the government is required to pump into the NMI Retirement Fund under a tentatively approved settlement agreement.

The $25 million is separate from the $7 million to $9 million that the government also needs to cough up in fiscal year 2014 for the Group Health and Life Insurance Plan.

Revenue-generating bills are also now needed for repayment of potential pension obligation bond, restore the 25-percent cuts in retirees' pension especially among those receiving only $10,000 or less pension annually, and fund public health, public safety and other government services.

A legislative conference committee will try to hash out the 2014 budget differences between the 20-member House and the nine-member Senate.

The new fiscal year begins on Oct. 1; it could also be the start of a government shutdown if no budget is in place before then.

"We could be running out of time. A conference committee is imminent. Another curveball is the settlement deal," Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee vice chair Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), chairman of the Fiscal Affairs Committee, said the Senate is poised to pass the 2014 budget bill—with amendments—next week.

Taimanao's panel is wrapping up agencies' budget hearings this week.

Yesterday, the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee held budget hearings for the departments of Public Safety, Corrections and Public Lands, among others.

"House Bill 18-98, House Draft 6, Senate Substitute 1 will be ready next week," Taimanao told *Saipan Tribune* after a budget hearing on the Department of Corrections' 2014 budget yesterday.

The House will then have to call a session to either accept or reject the Senate-amended budget bill.

Some senators and House members said yesterday it is likely that the House will reject such a bill, giving way to a conference committee.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said that the next session may be rescheduled for Thursday next week, wherein senators will act on the budget bill.

Taimanao said the Fiscal Affairs Committee will recommend to the full Senate to restore the governor's original funding for Rota and Tinian.

The House cut $2.29 million from the Rota and Tinian utilities budget and homestead programs.

She said the panel is also looking at the difference between the Tinian and Rota appropriations that the governor submitted.

Taimanao also said it is "likely" that the committee will recommend giving more full-time equivalent positions to the governor, or at least more than the "50" that the House gave.

Of the 50 FTEs that the House gave, the 25 is only a fallback plan just in case the Division of Parks and Recreation's functions are not privatized by the start of fiscal year 2014.

The governor originally asked for 100 additional FTEs to be able to have the flexibility to hire more essential and critical personnel when the need arises.

Another senator said the utilities budget may be changed to a "lump sum" as opposed to being incorporated into each department or agency budget.

Revenue-generating bills

Besides the 2014 budget and the supplemental budget that need to be passed, the Legislature is also pressed to pass revenue-generating bills.

Yumul said one of the House's revenue generating bills that the Senate may act on next week is the electronic gaming measure.

"This could be the source money for the pension obligation bond repayment. There's no other source," he said in an interview.

The Saipan casino gambling measure, meanwhile, is not expected to be put on the floor for Senate voting next week as committees are still working on their reports.

The 25-percent retirees' pension cut will also tentatively take effect in October.

That would add pressure on lawmakers, who need to pass other revenue generating bills as a source of funding to restore the 25 percent pension cut especially for those receiving the minimum $6,000 a year pension.

That separate account will also be the source of payment of interests for Fund members who withdrew their contributions from the pension agency.

Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), meanwhile, said he hopes that the House and Senate will be able to properly communicate and resolve their differences regarding the budget bill to avoid any shutdown.

"Why jeopardize everybody because of disagreement in the budget? I hope we could communicate with each other accordingly, and finalize the budget. This is for the Commonwealth's sake," he added.

AYUYU

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allow or deny a senator from attending a session, should Ayuyu fail to resign before the session.

However, Senate Rules and Procedures Committee chair Victor Hocog (R-Rota) has prepared a report recommending Ayuyu's expulsion as a senator and this report will be taken up in the next Senate session.

The committee gave an Aug. 2 deadline for Ayuyu to resign, but the latter has not done so as of yesterday, Aug. 14.

Torres yesterday rescheduled today's Senate session for Monday but this is likely to be rescheduled again for next Thursday.

Ayuyu faces 33 to 41 months in prison after pleading guilty to smuggling endangered fruit bats from Rota to Saipan and obstruction of justice.

He was allowed to be released from prison while awaiting his sentencing.

The Senate Rules and Procedures panel said if Ayuyu will be spending 33 to 41 months in prison, it would be in everyone's best interest for him to resign instead.

Ayuyu's term as senator ends in January 2015, way before the end of his possible prison term.

Ayuyu, 48, was in jail since Dec. 17, 2012, on charges of alleged smuggling of endangered fruit bats, witness tampering, and possession of a cell phone while in prison.

Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas, in a March 15, 2013, legal opinion, said that if Ayuyu is convicted and a vacancy in the Senate exists, that vacancy will be filled by Joey Anthony Quitugua.

NMC

From Page 1

been granted an extension of 18 months to ultimately get accredited under one body," said Hart yesterday.

Additionally, Hart said, "USDOE also notified us that they will not be going back in looking at rendering any decision to go after prior eligibility awards that was granted to us since 2001."

"This is exactly what we have asked for, so we are absolutely thrilled that these have been granted by the USDOE," she added.

Hart attributed the positive news to the delegation the CNMI sent to Washington, D.C. to appeal the case; the letter from Gov. Eloy S. Inos to Undersecretary of Education Dr. Martha Kanter appealing for the college; the joint resolution received from the CNMI Legislature; the continuous appeal and communication from Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP); and the extraordinary support extended by students, officials of NMC and its educational partners.

Hart also disclosed that a similar extension was granted to the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, while the American Samoa Community College failed to obtain this concession.

USDOE provides federal financial aid to NMC through Title IV funds, which comprise five different programs: Pell grant, TEACH grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal College Work Study, and Academic Competitiveness Grant.

Since 2001, a total of 2,283 students in the bachelor of science in Education degree program have benefited from these funds.

'What's next?'

Because NMC was given a deadline to be under only one accrediting body, Hart said the board will make a final determination on the best direction to take for the institution.

She hinted, though, that NMC will move the accreditation of its School of Education (the baccalaureate program) from WASC's Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities to WASC's Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, or ACCJC.

"USDOE is urging NMC to immediately start planning and look into how this will get done. We will now sit down and consult with the board on what's best for the college. But at this time, the cleanest route is probably leaning toward ACCJC," she said, adding that everything will depend on the board's decision, which she aims to get within the month.

ACCJC petition

Hart also disclosed yesterday that the ACCJC has applied with USDOE to be given the ability to accredit community colleges that offer a limited number of baccalaureate programs. This petition is in relation to the NMC's plan to move its four-year degree accreditation to ACCJC so that both the college's associate and baccalaureate programs are under one accrediting body.

However, this petition is still being processed.

Hart disclosed that ACCJC will submit the needed paper work for its petition and this will undergo review by USDOE in December. The decision whether USDOE will grant the application or not is expected after 90 days, or in March 2014.

Saipan Tribune learned that ACCJC's petition to be granted the ability to accredit community colleges that offer a limited number of four-year degree programs is "unique" and deemed a "pilot test."

Of the six different accreditation bodies in the U.S., only WASC has two accreditation levels, the ACCJC and ACSCU. The rest have just one accrediting commission each.

'Sense of relief'

NMC students Shauna Iguel and Marilynn Duenas both expressed relief as the news broke out on campus yesterday morning. They are just two of the many students who would have been adversely impacted had USDOE decided to terminate financial aid for NMC's baccalaureate program.

Iguel and Duenas are both majoring in Rehabilitation and Human Services. The two have been receiving Title IV funds since the beginning and both want to enroll in the baccalaureate degree program to become certified counselors.

"Having this news is like a big relief for me, knowing that I would be able to pursue my studies without having financial worries. It's a big relief for my parents too," said Duenas, who called his mother as soon as she confirmed the news.

In preparation for a possible adverse decision by the USDOE, NMC earlier issued notices to affected students laying out a payment plan for their tuition. One of these options is to make a down payment of 10 percent upon registration and splitting the remaining 90 percent in three installments.

Student Services dean Leo Pangelinan confirmed the notices sent to students but he promised to reimburse those who have already paid their 10-percent down payment. He said yesterday that NMC will continue to receive applications and process them for financial assistance and he encouraged those students who delayed their enrolment in the baccalaureate program to return and meet with their academic adviser.

NMC will give these students beginning Friday at 10am to change their schedules for the new semester.

School of Education director Charlotte Cepeda disclosed that, like Iguel and Duenas, many students expressed relief and were overjoyed when she made a brief announcement at the registration line.

"Students were excited and smiling and you could feel the sense of relief," added Cepeda.

Last term, the School of Education had close to 300 students—all receiving Title IV funds.

Members of Saipan Awaodori Team are enjoying Japan trip

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Almost to a man, members of the Saipan Awaodori Team currently performing with their mother organization, Tokyo Tensuiren Group, are having the time of their lives in Japan.

Most recently, the five-person delegation took part in the Awaodori Festival in Higashirinkan, Kanagawa.

"This trip to Japan is the best experience of the Saipan Awaodori Team. For the past four weeks it was fun performing with the Tokyo Tensuiren Group at the same time it was hard, it was like a 30 minutes to an hour performance without stopping," said musician/drummer Zacarias Sakisat in an email to Sonia Siwa, PDM Promoters Inc. coordinator.

Dancer Itheyvin They echoed Sakisat's comments but added that she misses her home islands very much, especially her family.

"It's fun dancing Awaodori with the Tokyo Tensuiren Group. I really enjoy the trip to Japan. I am really having fun in Japan but at the same time I really miss my family," she told Siwa.

Besides Sakisat and They, others in the group are dancer Eliza Lazaro and drummers Mitsunobu Suzuki and Ran Suzuki.

Lazaro looks at their trip to Japan and them tag-teaming with the Tokyo Tensuiren Group as a great learning experience and something that they can pass on to their Saipan Awaodori Team members once they come back home.

"I get tired but I know that it's all worth it. Practice is always hard but exciting; I could feel my heart beating as I listen to the rhythm. I enjoy it here, I enjoy being with them, I enjoy making friends, and I am proud to call the Tokyo Tensuiren my family. Not just them but the other groups as well, passing by them we greet each other...We might be in a different group but we enjoy what we are doing now... But what is important is that I could see progress put into hard work," she said in an email to Siwa.

Sakisat, They, Lazaro, and the Suzuki siblings were joined by three other Saipan Awaodori Team members early in the week when dancers Nyla Julie Sablan Ogumoro, Ronald Fitipol Fernandez, and Cody Josiah Litulumar arrived in Japan.

The Saipan Awaodori Team's next performance will be this Saturday, Aug. 17, at Susono in Sizuoka, Japan. It will be followed by another show on Sunday, Aug. 18, in Ontakesan, Tokyo.

The Saipan Awaodori Team's last performance this year in Japan will the three-day Awaodori Event Festival on Aug. 23, 24, and 25 at Koenjim, Tokyo. This is the country's biggest Awaodori Festival.

PDM Promoters CEO and director Misako Kamata and instructor/teacher Mayumi Suzuki are accompanying the eight members of the Saipan Awaodori Team in Japan. Suzuki is a member of the Tokyo Tensuiren Group.

The Saipan Awaodori Team is expected to return to Saipan on Aug. 28.

The Awaodori Festival is held from July to August in Japan and is meant to usher the souls of ancestors during the *obon* season.

During the festival, groups of choreographed dancers and musicians known as *ren* dance through the streets, typically accompanied by the shamisen lute, *taiko* drums, *shinobue* flute, and the *kane* bell. Performers wear traditional *obon* dance costumes, and chant and sing as they parade through the streets.

Probable cause is found to charge man who burned apartment room

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo found probable cause yesterday to warrant the filing of charges against Jerry D. Ramon, a habitual offender accused of setting his apartment room in San Antonio on fire.

Govendo ordered the 34-year-old Ramon to answer the charges of arson, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace.

Assistant public defender Eden Schwartz is representing Ramon in the case.

At a preliminary hearing, assistant attorney general Brian Flaherty called to the witness stand police detective Daniel R. Suel, who investigated the fire incident.

Police officers responded to a two-story apartment in San Antonio on July 28 at 6:27pm after receiving a call about an arson case.

Police said it was Ramon's brother who extinguished the fire by pouring a five-gallon bottle of water on the burning bed. The bed had severe heat and smoke damage. The room had moderate smoke damage.

Suel learned that Ramon had been drinking since that morning and had an argument with his brother later that afternoon. Ramon then allegedly threw a bottle of soju at his brother, went inside their room, lit up pieces of paper and burned the bed.

When the brother saw smoke coming out from their room, he grabbed a five-gallon water bottle and doused the flames on the bed. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

New budget for CNMI Head Start operation OK'd

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The operational budget for the Public School System's Head Start program under program year 2013-2014 has been approved, according to program director Melissa Palacios, who said this is a direct indication that the program will remain under the umbrella of PSS.

Palacios also reported to the Board of Education that officials from the Head Start Region IX Office commended PSS during a conference in Hawaii in June for consistently demonstrating excellence in handling the program for many years.

"The Region IX program manager commended PSS and the Head Start program for a great review and extended the message for us 'to keep up the good work,'" Palacios told board members last week.

» Palacios: HS Region IX commends PSS for great review

A team from Region IX Head Start Office came to the CNMI in March this year to review how PSS is handling the federally funded program. The results of this federal review were issued in June, showing only two findings, which education officials consider minor.

Palacios said: "Region IX recognized that we have two findings [from the review], but they considered them as 'very, very minor.'" *Saipan Tribune* learned that these findings deal with public reporting and physical inventory of program assets.

BOE chair Herman T. Guerrero said that PSS was given 90 days or until Sept. 30 to rectify the two findings. Palacios reported, though, that all documentations are pretty much complete and ready for submission to the federal agency.

The extensive federal assessment of the Head Start program aimed to determine if the current agency handling its operation demonstrates effectiveness in doing the job. Failure to satisfy the review will mean the potential transfer of program administration to other groups and agencies who may competitively apply for it.

But last week, Palacios disclosed that the new budget for program year 2013-2014 was formally received on Aug. 7, inclusive of a supplemental funding of about $200,000.

Each year, the Head Start program is mandated to serve 462 children and has an annual budget of $1.8 million, of which over $300,000 are from the local side. The program promotes the school readiness of children ages birth to 5 from low-income families.

Head Start sessions kicked off last week on three islands.

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IN TRIAL OVER ALLEGED SEX ABUSE OF GIRL WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Ayuyu cleared of one charge; prosecution, defense rest

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The prosecution and the defense counsel both rested their cases yesterday afternoon in the ongoing jury trial of Ray Anthony Ayuyu, a 42-year-old man accused of sexually abusing a girl with some developmental disabilities.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the Superior Court at 5pm, assistant attorney Nicole Driscoll, counsel for the government, had just started her closing arguments.

Driscoll and co-counsel, assistant attorney general Margo Brown, rested their case after calling a total of six witnesses, including the 14-year-old alleged victim.

After the government rested, defense attorney Colin Thompson, counsel for Ayuyu, moved for a judgment of acquittal.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho granted Thompson's motion to acquit Ayuyu as to the charge of disturbing the peace. Camacho denied the motion to acquit Ayuyu on the remaining charge of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

After presenting two witnesses, Thompson announced that the defense rests its case.

Police said the sexual assault was reported to the police on Nov. 29, 2012. The girl allegedly claimed that Ayuyu touched her privates on at least two occasions in September 2012.

BOE favors amending Rota law to reflect schools' merger

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI State Board of Education, through its chairman, Herman T. Guerrero, has expressed support for the idea to amend a local law on Rota to reflect the policy decision made by the board two years ago.

House Bill 18-64 proposes to amend Rota Local Law 17-6 to officially rename Rota's Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior High School into the Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior/Senior High School. This bill is now pending at the Legislature and seeking comments from agencies like the Public School System.

"The board and the PSS support this bill. As the Legislature correctly points out, the junior and senior high schools on Rota were merged pursuant to CNMI State Board of Education action on Aug. 25, 2011. This bill accurately reflects that prior board action," according to Guerrero.

The board approved the Rota schools' merger in an aim to save on operational cost, estimated then at $540,000, including savings on utility consumption as a result of shutting down some school buildings.

The BOE chair said the legislation memorializes the naming of the merged school as approved by the board. He said the board agrees that the legacy of Dr. Inos should continue to be honored. Inos died in August 2009 of cancer.

Inos was the PSS Commissioner from June 1998 to December 2005. She began her education career on the islands in 1972 until she passed away in 2009.

FIRST RESPONDERS
Four police officers with drawn guns respond to Kagman High School where an "explosion" occurred and a group of terrorists "opened fire" inside the campus on Friday. The school incident was one of the scenarios of the two-day full-scale all-hazard KONFITMA exercise conducted over the weekend.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

CGC to hold professional development day

The Community Guidance Center will be holding its Professional Development Day tomorrow, Aug. 16, at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

CGC prevention specialist Jody Abraham expects 25 of the center's staff to attend the one-day training.

It starts with a series of team-building exercises and improving one's communication skills in the morning session that will be led by Islands Training Solutions' Jim Arenovski. This will be from 8am to 12pm.

After a break for lunch, participants will return at 1pm for the second half that will focus on more hands-on activities. Participants will be broken into groups and will be given real-life scenarios that will force them think out of the box. The afternoon session will be administered by Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc.'s Tom Thornbourgh and Greg Borja.

After the CGC Professional Development Day, the center will host the CHCC Customer Service Training on Aug. 29, from 9am to 4pm, also at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Abraham said all divisions of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. have been invited to attend the program that will solely focus on improving customer service at the CNMI's lone hospital.

Among the activities in store for attendees are class lectures, group exercises, role-playing, and improving communication, especially learning about proper phone etiquette.

Like the first half of the CGC Professional Development Day, the CHCC Customer Service Training will be conducted by Arenovski's Islands Training Solutions.

The Community Guidance Center is a division under the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. It is the primary provider of comprehensive mental health and substance abuse services for all CNMI residents.

It incorporates all outpatient mental health services and administers all federal health programs in the CNMI related to mental health and substance abuse, as well as all other publicly funded mental health services.

All services and programs administered by the Community Guidance Center are supervised by substance abuse and mental health program managers under the management of its director. ***(Mark Rabago)***

PUBLIC NOTICE

Walter Penalosa
is no longer connected with
ASIA PACIFIC IND., INC.
P.O. Box 506237 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No.: 235-5454
Any transactions made by him on behalf of the company will not be accepted.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Friday, August 16, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor, Captain George F. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (August 12, 2013)

II. SPECIAL AGENDA ITEM(S)
1. Approval of Personnel Committee Report

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION
1. CPA v. CUC Litigation/Status Report
2. Freedom Air
3. Other Litigation Items

V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman, Board of Directors

August 14, 2013

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting
The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, August 22 , 2013 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan
(Tel: 234-9661 ● Fax: 234-9666 ● e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of July 25, 2013 minutes
5. Public Comments

B. Public Hearings
1. **Conditional Use Application #2013-0055.** Dr. Gene S. Eagle Oden of Mango Resort is proposing to convert his Multifamily Apartment complex under Minor Site Plan Permit #2011-6445 into a Hotel operation with amendments to the site development plan. This use is classified as a Hotel and is located on lot EA 216-2-1 & EA 216-3 in As Lito. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
2. **Rezone Application #2011-6766.** Mr. Roy Alexander of Alexander Realty & Development is requesting to rezone lots 330-4, 330-R2, 330-3, and 330-2 from Village Commercial to Tourist Resort, for the construction and operation of a hotel with commercial space units. These areas are located across from the former Mobil Gas station in Oleai, and north of Kilili Beach Park.

C. Communications/ Reports
D. Old Business.
1. Update on Saipan Adult Gambling Machine Business (Poker) law of 2013

E. New Business
1. Office operations report

F. Executive (Closed) Session.
G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
for
Mango Resort

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Dr. Gene S. Eagle Oden is proposing to convert his Multifamily Apartment complex under Minor Site Plan Permit #2011-6445 into a Hotel operation with amendments to the site development plan. This use is classified as a Hotel and is located on lots EA 216-2-1 & EA 216-3 in As Lito. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

Date: August 22, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, August 21, 2013. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp , via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Kilili joins call to restore nutrition assistance funding to Farm Bill

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) released the following statement yesterday in support of a letter from 205 House Democrats to Speaker John Boehner calling on Republican leadership to restore funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, to the final Farm Bill:

"Today's letter is a call on the House Republican leadership to preserve and advance the health, economic certainty, and food security of millions of American families. As too many children and seniors go to bed hungry each night—without knowing where they will get their meals the next day—it is our responsibility to enact a Farm Bill that restores essential nutrition initiatives for nearly 50 million Americans, including some 14,000 in the Northern Mariana Islands.

"The Republican record reflects a blatant disregard for the needs of the most vulnerable Americans—from their failure to pass a comprehensive Farm Bill to their decision to remove nutrition assistance from the legislation entirely. Now, Republicans reportedly want to slash $40 billion from SNAP and other critical efforts. This wrong-headed approach will take food from the mouths of children and undermine the wellbeing of millions of families.

"Democrats are united in seeking a responsible solution to this challenge. It is our hope that the Republican response to this letter is focused on how we move forward on behalf of the best interests of hardworking Americans. We must act to fight not to increase hunger in America."

The full letter is as follows:

Dear Speaker Boehner,

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is our country's most critical anti-hunger program, helping more than 47 million Americans meet their basic food needs at a time when more than 50 million Americans face the threat of food insecurity. Nearly half of SNAP enrollees are children, and the program helps feed roughly one in three children in America. Additionally, almost 75 percent of SNAP participants are in households with children, seniors, or a disabled individual.

More than half of the average household's SNAP allocation is used within seven days, and by the third week of the month 90 percent of SNAP benefits have been redeemed, leaving many families without the resources they need to buy food. This inadequacy causes an added burden on food banks, as nearly 60 percent of the households receiving SNAP and using food banks have to rely on food banks at least six months a year. In addition, under current law each household participating in SNAP will see a benefit reduction when the temporary increase from the Recovery Act expires. This means that, beginning Nov. 1, each SNAP enrollee will see a cut to their benefit that is, on average, less than $1.50 per meal.

Unfortunately, the Republican leadership recently forced through a Farm Bill reauthorization, H.R. 2642, which did not include the nutrition title, a major part of the Farm Bill that would reauthorize SNAP. We voted against this bill in large part because of this intentional omission. We strongly believe in the critical importance of SNAP. Given the essential nature of this program to millions of American families, the final language of the Farm Bill or any other legislation related to SNAP must be crafted to ensure that we do not increase hunger in America. ***(PR)***

Company wants empty soda boxes in exchange for unique puzzle game

Botchee Games International owner Gary Stout wants to introduce the unique puzzle game to schools in exchange for empty soda boxes.

Stout said the exchange will be like hitting two birds with one stone since his company will be able to successfully market its Botchee Games to students and at the same time get its hands on empty soda boxes.

He said his company uses the empty soda boxes for its unique packaging of the Botchee Games, which according to its website "is a game based on Sudoku, where botching becomes a strategy to win the game."

Stout said that Botchee Games is essentially board game without a board. In lieu of a board, game frames are used for the current and only version of Botchee.

He said he formed his company in August 2012, but the game itself has been in existence since 2006 or 2007 on the website www.tophatpuzzle.com.

The Botchee Games owner recently joined the Saipan Chamber of Commerce "to learn from others experience and to get help with marketing the games."

According to its website (www.BotcheeGames.com), Botch means "to harm or spoil through inept or clumsy handling."

"And what is more prone to botching than a Sudoku puzzle? Botchee is a game where people throughout the world can have an inexpensive dice puzzle game the whole family can enjoy."

As a special promotion, Botchee Games International is offering its Deluxe Botchee dice games for only $9.99. This is a special savings over the regular retail price of $19.99.

"This is a limited offer so please make your purchase today by going to our shop page and filling in the necessary information. After making your purchase please go to our Botchee Club page and sign up on Facebook. Join Our International Botchee Club and share your experiences on Facebook….it's free with many benefits so do it today and share your Botchee experiences with the world." ***(Mark Rabago)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management
Caller Box 10007, Behind Department of Public Safety Bureau of Motor Vehicle, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950
Website: www.crm.gov.mp • Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) will be holding a public hearing regarding Coastal Permit Application No. SMS-2013-X-031 submitted by 3M Environmental Corp. on behalf of the Tasi Homes Development, LLC,. to construct an apartment building comprised of 49 3-bedroom units within eight (8) floors, 64 parking spaces and driveway on the first floor, landscaping and sidewalk. The project site is located on lot no. 003 H 44 east of Sugar Dock in Susupe, Saipan.

The public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, August 29, 2013, at 6:30 pm at the Coastal Resources Management Office in Susupe, Saipan.

The public is invited to attend and make oral comments regarding this project. The project file is open for review and comments during business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. Written comments can be submitted to the CRM Office located in Susupe, Saipan immediately behind the Bureau of Motor Vehicle building, or mail to Coastal Resources Management Office, Caller Box 10007 or fax at 664-8315. All written and oral comments received will be made a part of the permit application record, and will be considered in any decision made concerning the proposed project.

Please contact Coastal Resources Management at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or require further information regarding this project.

/s/ANA C. AGULTO
Acting Administrator
Coastal Resources Management

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM- OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-GOV-147

Tinian Health Center Medical Equipment

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, are soliciting sealed bids for the Purchase of Medical Equipment for the Tinian Health Center.

The project package will be available Friday, July 26, 2013 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing **no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on August 9, 2013** to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia of the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked "**ITB13-GOV-147**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, August 26, 2013**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. Saipan local time August 26, 2013**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **August 26, 2013** and must be received no later than **September 2, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, August 27, 2013**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at **10:30 a.m. Saipan local time, on August 26, 2013**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Cash or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section 70-30.3-245.. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government.

Performance time for completion of this project is sixty (**60**) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) one hundred dollars (**$100.00**), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION TO BIDS
CUC-ITB-13-023

SURVEYED VEHICLES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is inviting interested individuals and firms to bid on CUC Surveyed Vehicles located in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $25.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and One (1) copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-ITB-13-023, CUC Surveyed Vehicles"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 23, 2013** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bidders must sign a Waiver of Liability, removing CUC's liability from claims resulting from violations relating to the removal and disposal of the surveyed vehicles. CUC shall transfer and assign the surveyed vehicles to the prospective bidder in a **"As is, Where is"** condition. By accepting the transfer and assignment, the bidder acknowledges that CUC has made no representation or warranties of the merchantability, quality, fitness, and condition of the vehicles.

The vehicles may be inspected by appointment only, between the hours of 9:00 AM thru 3:00 PM Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, by contacting CUC Procurement & Supply Division at telephone no. 235-7025.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the CUC.

All inquiries shall be must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **August 14, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Administrative Assistant for Procurement via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

COURTESY CALL CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FSM Ambassador to the United States Asterio Takesy, center, is flanked by Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, left, and David Sablan during a courtesy call the envoy made on the two. Takesy, who is a long time personal friend of Tan and Sablan, is on Saipan for a family matter.

Woman in identity theft case gets 6 months

A woman indicted on identity theft charges was slapped with a six-month prison term after she pleaded guilty to false statement of material fact.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Friday gave Shuixiang Zhou credit for the time she has already served in jail.

Upon her release, the defendant, a Chinese national, will be placed on 12 months of supervised release, but among the conditions is that she will be turned over to an immigration official for deportation from the CNMI.

If deportation fails to occur and the defendant is released pending further immigration proceedings, she will be required to immediately report to the U.S. Probation Office to begin her probation term.

Manglona granted the U.S. government's motion to dismiss count 2 of the indictment charging Zhou with aggravated identity theft.

Attorney Colin Thompson is the court-appointed counsel for Zhou.

According to the factual basis of the plea deal, on Oct. 1, 2012, on Saipan, the defendant falsely identified herself as "Xifen Zhou" to agents of the Department of Homeland Security who inquired into her immigration status.

Zhou's false statement was material to the activities or decisions of DHS, because it caused DHS to issue a notice to appear in the wrong name, and to convene a futile immigration hearing. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Pasifika database brings in west coast tribes

Indigenous media from the west coast of North, Central, and South America are being added to MediaPasifika, a Pacific Rim interactive database developed by a New Zealand company to move toward complete Pacific Rim indigenous coverage.

Wellington-based Netmedia runs a suite of interactive media databases that it markets globally. But it first developed MediaNZonline (now owned by iSentia) and has been able to use this successful platform to create MediaPasifika, which contains all the print, radio, television and Internet media from Guam to the Cook Islands, as well as Maori, Samoan, and Tongan media in New Zealand and Australia, where Native Australian newspapers, radio stations, television links, and Internet media are in place.

Subsequently media databases were researched for Russia and East Europe, the English language media in Asia, and Brazil—a first step to expand in Latin America.

"MediaPasifika brings together indigenous communities over this huge area," said publisher David Reade. "It encourages them to get their voices heard. And it's just as important in reverse: a message can go out to all Polynesians—Maori, Samoans, Tongans—wherever there is a community with a publication, a radio or television station, bloggers or users of other social media. You could use it to talk to all the Native Australians, or the Melanesians in Fiji and New Caledonia.

"Now by spreading the net wider we can include the Mapuche in Chile and Argentina, for example, the Kogi in Columbia and Inuits in Alaska—working toward including all the indigenous and ethnic voices from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego.

"Indigenous people throughout the area have more in common with each other than with their colonial era immigrant populations." ***(PR)***

BoG promotes David R. Sablan to VP

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—The board of directors, management and staff of Bank of Guam announced yesterday the appointment of David R. Sablan as vice president/Harmon branch manager.

Sablan

Sablan is a 29-year veteran in the financial services industry, having started with the Bank of Guam in 1984. After relocating and holding a number of positions in off-island firms, Sablan returned to Guam in 2006 and rejoined the Bank of Guam in 2010 as a consumer loan officer. His most recent position was as an assistant vice president/Santa Cruz branch manager.

A graduate of John F. Kennedy High School, Sablan attended both the University of Hawaii and the University of Guam.

Sablan currently serves as the deacon/treasurer of the Agana Heights Baptist Church, and is a board member of the Rotary Club of Tumon Bay. ***(BoG)***

Water outage in Koblerville on Friday

Residents of Koblerville and Afetnas will experience a nine-hour water outage on Friday, Aug. 16, from 8am to 5pm, according to a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. statement yesterday.

The purpose of this water outage is to allow CUC's contractor, AIC Marianas Inc., to replace a non-working fire hydrant along Sentada Ct. This project is part of the Koblerville Gate Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacement Project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The water outage will affect residents living in the higher elevations of Koblerville along Chalan Msgr. Martinez Road, Sentda Ct., Asnentukon St., Adobu Drive, and Afetna Road.

Because of the scale of the work to be performed, CUC recommends that motorists take alternative routes or to exercise caution when driving through the construction sites.

CUC's operation team and AIC Marianas will be working hard to return service to our customers in these affected areas as soon as possible.

For more information, contact project manager Yvonne Cabrera at (670) 235-7025-30 Ext. 324. ***(CUC)***

Water outage in Dandan today

Residents of Dandan along Dandan Road will experience a nine-hour water outage today, Aug. 15, from 8am to 5pm, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The water outage will allow CUC's contractor, GPPC Inc., to make mainline connection along Dandan Road that will extend water service to Dandan customers from the San Vicente tank. This project is part of the San Vicente Service Area Extension Project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The water outage will affect residents living on Dandan Road. CUC encourages its customers to call the CUC Call Center at (670) 235-0282 or 235-2282 if you have any complaints in regards to no water or low pressure water as GPPC, Inc. transfers CUC's existing customers from the old 8-inch ACP waterline to the new 12-inch PVC waterline.

Because of the scale of the work to be performed, CUC recommends that motorists take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the construction sites.

For more information, contact project manager Yvonne Cabrera at (670) 235-7025-30 Ext. 324. ***(CUC)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 15, 2005

'Fall hazards, poor water quality'

Fall hazards and poor water quality remain the major challenges in occupational health and safety in the Commonwealth, according to a visiting U.S. Department of Labor official. Frank Strasheim, administrator of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Region 9, said that the federal agency, in inspections conducted locally, found most of the serious hazards in the construction industry. The general industry, which includes hotels and small businesses, continue to be burdened by water contamination and electrical hazards. But despite these problems, local businesses have shown a great deal of improvement in complying with workplace safety and health requirements, Strasheim observed.

Arrivals from top NMI markets drop

Due to reduced airline seats capacity, visitor arrivals from the top three tourism markets of the Northern Marianas declined last month, compared with the same month last year. Arrivals from Japan fell by 2.28 percent, from 32,037 visitors in July 2004 to 31,306 in July 2005. The Marianas Visitors Authority attributed this to the continuing impact of the decline in airline seats capacity from the Kanto region, the largest market segment covering areas such as Tokyo, Narita, and Chiba. Kanto recorded a decline of 13 percent in arrivals in July 2005, compared with July 2004. The situation is expected to worsen when Japan Airlines ceases to operate its regular, scheduled flights to Saipan effective Oct. 4.

August 15, 2006

CPA: Taga Air still flying

Taga Air planes continue to transport passengers between Saipan and Tinian, said the Commonwealth Ports Authority yesterday. CPA acting executive director Reno Celis said that the Federal Aviation Administration has not issued any notice against Taga Air after one of its aircraft crashed Friday. The seven-seater plane crashed on Saipan a minute after it took off en route to Tinian at dawn Friday, injuring all seven passengers aboard. "They [Taga Air] are still flying on chartered basis. We received no memo from FAA to that effect [grounding of Taga Air]," said Celis in an interview yesterday.

Senate passes own version of budget

The Senate passed on Friday its version of the fiscal year 2007 budget, which earmarks funds for government utility expenses, cuts the Department of Public Lands' funding, and addresses retirement contribution issues. Members of the Senate held a marathon session until 9pm Friday to approve its substitute to the version approved by the House of Representatives. The budget bill now goes back to the Lower House for approval of the amendments. The Senate seeks to preserve the $193.5-million budget ceiling for the CNMI government. However, the latest budget version raises the allocation for personnel to $130.8 million, increasing it by nearly $260,000. It also sets aside $13.2 million for utility expenses from the $62.7 million operating funds.

August 15, 2007

High Court ground zero for field hearing

All eyes and ears will be on the U.S. House field hearing on the NMI immigration bill this morning. The House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, led by U.S. Virgin Islands Rep. Donna Christensen, will conduct the hearing at 9am in the Guma Hustisia in Susupe, Saipan. The door will open 15 minutes before the hearing. Seating for the public will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Christensen and Guam Rep. Madeleine Bordallo arrived Monday night from Guam, where the subcommittee held a hearing on the planned military buildup in the U.S. territory.

Congressional staff inspects power plant

The U.S. House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources responded with action to testimony it received in April from Washington Representative Pete A. Tenorio by dispatching to Saipan a staffer who toured yesterday the power plant operated by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. U.S. congressional staffer Steve Feldgus, Ph.D, arrived at Saipan's failing power plant Tuesday afternoon, along with Tenorio, to view first-hand the energy scene in the Commonwealth. According to Tenorio's staff, members on the House Energy Subcommittee want to know how Big Oil prices are affecting people in the Commonwealth.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Another townhall meeting today

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that there will be another townhall meeting to discuss the *Johnson v. Inos* settlement agreement. The meeting will be held today, Aug. 15, beginning at 5:30pm at the Garapan Elementary School cafeteria. The general public is invited to listen to Inos and other officials explain the benefits of the settlement agreement. There will also be an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions about the agreement. The Office of the Governor will also be coordinating meetings on Tinian and Rota. Further information as to future meeting schedules and locations will be announced in the coming days. ***(PR)***

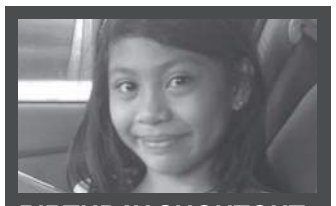
$5 for school and sports physical exams

In recognition of National Community Health Center Week, the Kagman Community Health Center is offering a discounted price of $5 for school and sport physical exams from Aug. 15 to 30, 2013.

This offer applies to appointments only so visit or call center at 256-5242 to make an appointment. Walk-in patients will be charged the normal rate.

KCHC is a primary care facility that serves all patients regardless of inability to pay. Everyone is welcome to be seen, even those who reside outside Kagman.

To make an appointment or to get information, call 256-KCHC (5242) from 8am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday (except holidays). More information about KCHC is available on its website at www.kagmanchc.org. ***(PR)***



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Rane Angeline Ben, who is celebrating her 11th birthday today, Aug. 15! Wishing you all the joys and best in life and always remember that you are loved! We love you ate!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ChaCha, KagES meeting for parents of kinder, 6th grade students

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that ChaCha Ocean View Jr. High School, together with Kagman Elementary School, will be having a meeting for incoming kindergarten and 6th grade students on Aug. 16, 2013, from 9am to 11am in the ChaCha Oceanview Junior High School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents and guardians to attend this meeting. Call the school at 237-3921 or 664-4100 if you have any question or concerns. ***(PR)***

Kagman High registration

All new and returning students to Kagman High are required to register for the upcoming school year. Registration forms are available at the Main Office or Registrar's Office. At this time, many incoming freshmen and sophomore students have not yet registered.

Students must register by Aug. 16, 2013, in order to receive their schedule at orientation. Students who register *after* this date will *not* be guaranteed a schedule at orientation.

Orientation dates are as scheduled:

- Freshmen and seniors: Aug. 27, 1:30pm to 2:30pm
- Sophomores and juniors: Aug. 28, 1:30pm to 2:30pm

Registration documents needed are current Blue health card, map to the residence, copies of birth certificate, and insurance card. ***(PR)***

Kagman High beginning-of-the-year orientations

Orientation for all new and returning students is designed to inform parents and students of any new or changing information about the 2013-2014 school year. Attendance at orientation is highly recommended for both parents and students.

Schedules will be handed out on this day. Students who are *not* registered will *not* get schedules.

Orientation dates are:

Freshmen and seniors: Tuesday, Aug. 27, from 1:30pm to 2:30pm

Sophomores and juniors: Wednesday, Aug. 28, from 1:30pm to 2:30pm. ***(PR)***

Red flag up at Hafa Adai drainage

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the Hafa Adai drainage and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from this location contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainages every Wednesday. ***(DEQ)***

CCA board to meet on Aug. 20

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding a meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2013, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Aug. 22

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Thursday, Aug. 22, 2013, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

Veterans' benefits outreach on Saipan, Tinian

Lee Stahli from the U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Outreach Office in Guam will be on Saipan and Tinian to conduct a Federal Veterans Benefits Outreach. He will entertain all inquires on old and new VA disability claims, including all other VA benefits questions.

Stahli will be on Tinian on Aug. 20, 2013, from 9am to 4pm, at the Tinian Mayor's Office conference room.

He will be on Saipan on Aug. 21 and Aug. 23, from 8:30am to 4pm, at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic, Suite 206 (second floor) at the Marina Heights Business Park, MHII Bldg. Appointments and walk-ins are all welcome.

All veterans and their family members are being encouraged to avail of these services. Point of contact is Ruth Coleman, Saipan VA Clinic coordinator, at 322-0035 or 989-8999. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE
CPA-PAN-002-13
"SALE OF 2 UNITS 2006 USED MERCURY OUTBOARD ENGINES 250 HP/FOUR STROKE"

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is inviting individuals, boat owners or firm's interested in buying a pair of 2006 Mercury Outboard Engine/250HP/Four Stroke (used).

The engines will be sold as a pair only and may be inspected at the CPA Sea Port Office located at the Port of Saipan by contacting Ms. Maryann Q. Lizama or Kay Inos at telephone numbers 664-3550 or 664-3560.

The auction will take place on August 15, 2013 at the Sea Port Office, Port of Saipan beginning 2:00 PM Local Time until 4:00 PM. The bidder submitting the highest bid is required to pay 20% down payment on acceptance of bid. Balance shall be payable at CPA Accounting Office at the Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Departure Building within five (5) working days from closing date of the auction. Failure to pay will result in the forfeiture of the down payment. Payment must be made in cash, cashier's check or money order payable to Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The pair of engines are sold "AS IS" AND "WHERE IS" and WITHOUT WARRANTY. The sold items must be removed from CPA property within five (5) calendar days from date of full payment. CPA will not be responsible for said items after the said specified time.

CPA maintains the right to set a minimum bid on the pair of engines. CPA further reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Public Auction Notice; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation prior to and at the auction.

CPA assumes no responsibilities for any costs incurred by bidders in their preparation of the bids.

Inquiries may be directed to the Procurement Officer, Mr. Alex C. Tudela, at telephone number 237-6563.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ Maryann Q. Lizama
Acting Executive Director

JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENT

Position: Manager, Front Office (1)
Qualification:
- 5 years experience and training
- Knowledge in Korea, China & Japan Tourism Market preferred
- Ability to speak & write Korean, Chinese and Japanese language preferred
- Must be able to work flexible hours depending on reservation
- Must be able to communicate clearly with managers & other personnel.
- Self motivated, trustworthiness and good working ethics.
- Courteous and prompt to respond to guest request and needs.
- Knowledge of business and management principles, including customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction.

Duties and responsibilities:
- Plan and direct activities such as sales promotions, coordinating with other department heads as required.
- Establish and implement departmental policies, goals, objectives, and procedures conferring with organization officials and staff members as necessary.
- Oversee activities directly related to providing services, manage and training staff, preparing work schedules and assigning specific rules.
- Observe and monitor staff performance to ensure efficient operations and adherence to facility 's policies and procedures.
- Greet, register guests and answer inquiries pertaining to hotel and golf course policies, services and resolve guest's and occupant's complaints.

Position: HVAC Technician (1)
Qualifications:
- 7 years of experience and training
- Must be able to work flexible hours as needed
- Knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repairs and maintenance. Knowledge of relevant equipment, policies, procedures and strategies to promote effective security operations for the protection of people, data, property and institution.
- Knowledge of applying principles, techniques, procedures and equipment to the design and production of various good and services.

Duties and responsibilities:
- Analyze and solve complex problems, continuous concentrated mental and visual effort to plan and perform complex work, strong physical exertion, responsibility for cost control.
- Sustained high degree of attention required to prevent damage or waste.
- Repair, replace defective equipment, component or wiring necessary to maintain equipment and systems.
- Reassemble and test equipment following repairs.
- Tests pipe or tubing joints or connections for leaks, using pressure gauge or soap-and water solution.
- Comply with applicable standards, policies, and procedures including safety procedures and maintenance of a clean work area.
- Install, connect and adjust thermostats, humidistats and timers using hand tools.
- Inspect and test systems to verify system compliance with plans and specifications or to detect and locate malfunctions.
- Test electrical circuits or components for continuity, using electrical test equipment.

Position: Golf Pro (1)
Qualification:
- 4 years experience and training
- Ability to speak & write Korean, Chinese and Japanese language preferred
- Must be able to work flexible hours depending on reservation
- Must be able to communicate clearly with managers & other personnel.
- Self motivated, trustworthiness and good working ethics.
- Courteous and prompt to respond to guest request and needs.
- Knowledge of principles and methods for teaching and instruction for individuals and groups, meeting quality standards for services and evaluation of customer satisfaction.

Duties and responsibilities:
- Provide training direction, encouragement, motivation to prepare the golfers for games, competitive events.
- Plans, organize and conduct practice sessions.
- Provide information about facilities, explain and enforce safety rules and regulations.
- Monitor activities to ensure adherence to rules and safety procedures, or arrange for the removal of unruly patrons.
- Operate, drive and explain the use of mechanical devices or equipment on the area.
- Instruct individuals or group rules, strategies and performance principles, such as specific ways of moving the body, hands or feet to achieve desired results.
- Adjust techniques, based on the strength and weakness of golfers.
- Keep abreast of changing rules, techniques, technologies and philosophies relevant to the sport.

Position: Kitchen Helper (1)
Qualifications:
- 2 years of working experience and training
- Must be able to work flexible hours depending on reservation and functions
- Must be able to communicate clearly with managers and other personnel.
- Self motivated, trustworthiness and good working ethics.

Duties and responsibilities:
- Wash peel, and cut various foods, such as fruits and vegetables to prepare for cooking or serving.
- Prepare a variety of foods, such as meats, vegetables, desserts, according to customer's order or supervisor's instructions following approved procedures.
- Store food in designated containers and storage areas to prevent spoilage.
- Mix ingredients for green salads, molded fruit salads, vegetables salads and pasta salads.
- Receive and store food supplies, equipment, and utensils in refrigerators, cupboards and other storage areas.
- Wash dishes, glassware, flatware, pots or pans using dishwashers or by hand.
- Place clean dishes, utensils or cooking equipment in storage areas.
- Maintain kitchen work areas, equipment, or utensils in clean and orderly condition.
- Stock supplies, such as food or utensils, in serving stations, cupboards, refrigerators or salad bars.
- Sweep or scrub floors, clean garbage cans with water or steam.
- Sort and remove trash, placing it in designated pickup areas.

Drop off your resume and application at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort at the Front Office, Kagman Road.
May submit resume online at: tmatsunaga@laolaobay.com
Deadline to submit Applications is on or before 5:00pm on August 23, 2013.

Saipan LauLau Development, Inc., dba LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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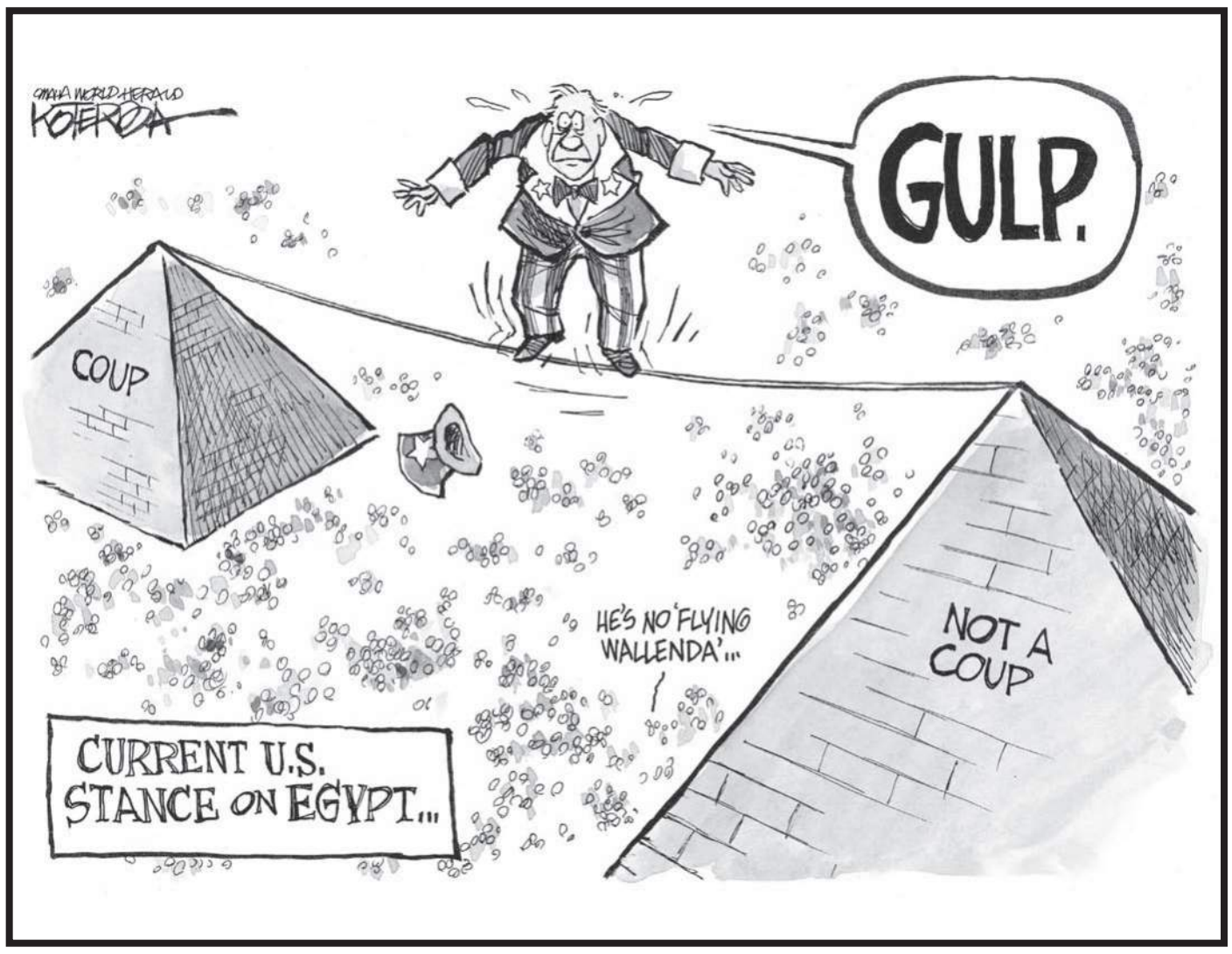
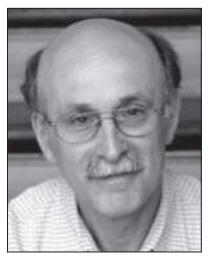


EDITORIAL

A kinship with Bradley Manning

By ROBERT MEEROPOL
Los Angeles Times



Robert Meeropol is executive director of the Rosenberg Fund for Children (www.rfc.org) and the younger son of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

A few weeks from now, a military judge will probably sentence Bradley Manning to serve several decades in prison for violating the Espionage Act of 1917. I feel a kinship with him. My parents, Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, were convicted of violating the same act in 1951. They were executed two years later, when I was 6.

That's only the beginning of my sense of connection with Manning. The prosecutors, and now the judge, have labeled his actions espionage, theft or other unsavory terms. Stripped of the pejorative legal expressions, however, what Manning really did was reveal the truth of our government's actions to the American people and the world.

In 1975, my brother and I began our effort to reopen our parents' case by filing a massive, precedent-setting Freedom of Information Act suit against 17 government agencies. Reporters asked us whether we were concerned that the material we sought would merely prove our parents' guilt. We answered that we believed the public had the right to know what was in the secret files even if it did not support our belief that our parents had been framed.

Although the revelations of the ensuing 38 years have, on occasion, challenged my convictions, today I remain convinced that my brother and I set the right course. From more than 300,000 previously secret files we forced into the public eye over the decades, including the release in 2008 of grand jury witness statements that had been kept under wraps almost 50 years, the American people have gained a much clearer picture of what actually happened in my parents' case.

We now know that my parents' trial judge collaborated with the prosecution, that witnesses perjured themselves and that evidence was fabricated; but we also know that my father, co-defendant Morton Sobell and others did provide valuable military information to the Soviet Union during the 1940s. What they transmitted, however, wasn't the secret of the atomic bomb as the government claimed to justify the death sentence, and the government executed my mother even though officials knew she did not engage in any espionage.

The nuanced understanding we gained from learning the truth about what went on behind the scenes has provided us with very valuable lessons both about security failures and the increased need for constitutional protections in times of crisis.

The whole experience convinced me that citizens must know what the government is doing in their name. This is the only way people can make the kind of knowledgeable judgments essential to a functioning democracy. Manning wrote shortly before his arrest: "I want people to see the truth … regardless of who they are … because without information, you cannot make informed decisions as a public."

Some think Manning is a traitor. He released classified material that embarrassed the U.S. government and could put us at a

See KINSHIP on Next Page

The Bible's case for immigration reform

By JIM WALLIS
Los Angeles Times

Jim Wallis is president of the Washington-based Christian organization Sojourners. His new book is On God's Side: What Religion Forgets and Politics Hasn't Learned About Serving the Common Good. *He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

Some say it will take a miracle for Congress to pass common-sense immigration reform. That miracle may be in the making, helped along by Christians who want to put their faith into action.

On July 24, 300 evangelical Christians from 27 states had 110 meetings with their mostly Republican representatives on Capitol Hill to ask them to let personal faith replace political fear. Republican leaders told us we represented a "new factor" in the debate on immigration, a grass-roots constituency for reform that can influence the political right.

We offered a clear message to every member of the House, but especially those who consider themselves people of faith. Christians, including millions of evangelicals, believe fixing our broken immigration system is long overdue.

We aren't primarily motivated by political considerations or even by the clear economic benefits immigration reform would bring. It is the biblical call to "welcome the stranger" and Jesus' concern for "the least of these" that inspires us. Congress needs to pass immigration reform because it is the morally right thing to do.

Of course, God never ordains or endorses particular pieces of legislation—bills are always the product of compromises and limitations. But the principles contained in the common-sense immigration bill put forward by both Republicans and Democrats in the Senate are the right ones. The proposal could bring 11 million people out of the shadows, reunite families, provide an earned, achievable pathway to citizenship, respect the rule of law and secure the border—all goals that are broadly consistent with biblical values.

When three of the largest Republican constituencies—evangelicals, law enforcement officials and business leaders—are in favor of an immigration overhaul, it's hard to fathom the arguments against it. Those whose position on reform is based on political fear, unacknowledged racial prejudice or worries about losing primaries to far-right ideologues are too often the same people who trumpet their religious convictions as guiding their decisions in public life.

Our claim to them is simple: Politicians who are professing Christians need to consider what their faith has to say about immigration. If they oppose reform and refuse to offer compassion to our immigrant brothers and sisters, they should justify their positions on moral grounds. We join with other faith communities in asking for a moral and religious conversation about immigration reform—not just a political one.

We don't think a faith-based argument exists against immigration reform, at least if you're reading the Bible closely. God's passionate, abiding concern for immigrants and foreigners, strangers and travelers—and for our neighbors—is obvious to anyone reading through Scripture.

In the Old Testament, the Lord commands: "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself …" (Leviticus 19:33-34).

The biblical word "ger" for the foreigners in our midst occurs an astounding 92 times in the Hebrew scriptures, with the consistent instruction to protect them.

In the New Testament, the stranger, and all who are vulnerable, are at the very heart of the Gospel. In the book of Matthew, Jesus offers a vision in which caring for them is the defining mark of God's kingdom:

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me" (Matthew 25:35-36).

That evangelical Christians would finally act to reform the immigration system should surprise no one, and not just for theological reasons. Undocumented immigrants have joined our congregations; we understand the problem firsthand. They are our brothers and sisters in the body of Christ. And we know that by reforming our immigration laws, we can create a system that also reflects the best values of our nation and the highest ideals of our faith. We act because, as the book of James reminds us, "faith without works is dead."

Conservative Republican Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida has connected his faith with his vote:

"I think the biggest change hasn't been in the pulpit; it's been in the pews.... It's one thing when 11 million is a statistic. The other thing is when one of those 11 million is your friend, a human being who you now know … as a father, as a husband, as a mother, as a worker, as a worshiper.... Our faith has always been about compassion and it compels you to do something. If you took compassion or the principle of compassion out of the Bible, it would be in tatters because it's all over the place."

Compassion is indeed all over the Bible. I pray it will also be found in the House of Representatives. It's time for Christians in the House to stand up in support of immigration reform, or to explain why they won't—as Christians. If they follow their faith, we will see the miracle we need.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Destrosiun tradision

Todu nasion ni humalom guine, finenina ha choneg i madestrosian kuttura yan tradision natibu. Ni unabes 'nai marespeta i man-dueñun este siha na islas deste antigu na Chamorro.

Pot para u libianu gi haf' planuña, debi finenina u destrosia kutturan i tanu'. Ha tutuhongue' gi mafunas usun liñguahe. Fuetsau ha poñga liñguahiña gi natibu. Kontodu kastigu ha impeña kontra usun hila'ta.

Gi silensiu na manera, sige ha' i natibu ha usa liñguahiña. Lau fuetsau mana' eyag finu' Haliman, Español, Japones yan pa'gu finu' Iñglis. Entre u fan osge 'sino mapunu'.

Todu kinisecha deste gualu' yan tasi, i mamaulegña mametkau. Ayu suetteña i natibu i te'lañg guaka dispues de masufan todu katneña. I ilun guihan yan to'lañg patten natibu dispues de lumi'uf todu dia gi halom taduñg tasi. 'Ansoblan kinisechan gualu' manai'ña gi finagpu' cho'chu' dispues de todu dia humotnat gi halom maipen somnag.

Sige mona, ha chapag i natibu gi gualu' ya hana' fan macho'chu' kumu patte gi planuña. I puntu gi papa' este na planu i para u tupa hit ginen tradision modun linala'ta. Umatotpe este yan inaligau natibu la libianu na offisiu ke papa' somnag yan halom tasi, diariu.

Dispues de geran dos

Dispues de gera, mahuchum Saipan enteramiente 'nai sige i CIA ha kreansa (train) i sindalun Chinu giya Magpi yan Chacha.

Gi 1961, mabasiha responsablidat guatu gi Depattamenton Interior. I sueddu poduñg deste $.75 esta $.16 gi ora gi papa' i Trust Territory.

Megai gi mañaina-ta mana' fan basta gi che'chu' niha. Mauleg na makontinua man-gualu dispues de finagpu' cho'chu' ya menos i sapet 'nai mattu ayu na tinilaika.

Sumen makat i mattirun ayu na tiempu. Fuetsau, megai bumira siha tatte gi gualu' yan peskan tasi. Tat hogsu' ti hu feddus guihe na tiempu ume-bronse. Tat kanton tasi lokue' ti hu fatoigue chumiliguagua' peskadot para tetchen mame.

Kontodu 'ansoblan kasunes defuntu tatahu malagnos ginen i kauhau ya malagsiye-yu' kasuneshu. Poble i tanu' 'nai megai manmamadese gi enteru i señgsoñg siha.

Maseha sumen makat, ni unu sumeha dumobla mañggasña gi kinalamten inaligau mantension familia. I para u kuentos pot pineble, na alie' ham sa' lamegai trabiha ti un' huhuñgog pot finapos mame guihe na mattirun tiempu.

Dispues de 1961 'nai man-libre hit bumisita Magpi yan Chacha (Kagman). Megai umusune bronse gi Lichiñg iya Magpi, kasadules binadu, ayuyu yan fanihe entalu Magpi yan Chacha. Pot primet biahe lokue' talie' haf' gaige gi hegsu' I Deni', bonito na lugat residenten man-ma'gas NTTU.

Probleman edukasion natibu

I administrason Navy umestablese eskuela siha guine kontodu i Saipan Intermediate School. Dispues de ochu gradu, debi estudiante u falag Guam ya u eskuela George Washington pat Father Duenas. Esta i mediu sisienta na sakan na ma-establese Hopwood Sr. High. Antes de ennau, esta ma-establese i Mt. Carmel High School.

'Nai man-magradua tautau-ta high school giya Guam, ha bira siha mage ya man-e'chochu'. Ayu 'nai halie' i Navy na fuera de una' fan eskuela tautau-ta, debi u establese chochu' para u gai signifikasion edukasion niha. Ma-usune este na kinalamten estake siña i komunidat-ta mismu umapagaye este na obligasion.

Mauleg intensioña i Navy lau ni guiya ti kabales planuña haf' para u chogue 'an man-mattu tatte famguon-ta ginen man-eskuela. I finatsu 'nos pot chatplanu lau patte gi ramas militat ya ti ayu fafayiña man-maneha sibit.

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Sensian yine'ase'

Gi hiniyuñg i Navy, dañkulu yine'aseña gi tautau ni ha diñgu gi santatte. Maseha haf' ta petsige, sinsiyu na diniseha na u felis i hinanau-ta mona.

Hafanue' hit tinituhon dikiki' na bisnis gi hechuran tendan sapatos. I mensahe: Siña hit mañgalamten sin man-ma-emplea gi gobietnun Trust Territory 'sino administrasion distritu.

Gi karera, ta fotma sentimentun hafa felis na offisiu gi haye maemplea gi gobietnu. Estague' na rason na memegaiña esta pa'gu man-machochochu' gi gobietnu.

Konsidera 'an deste uttimon siñkuenta siha na sakan ta tutuhon man-bisnis. Siempre ennau na pinetsige u ma-adelanta mas ya hahatsa adelanton produktun gualu' yan tasi.

Taya' planu guihe na tiempu pot este na patte gi kinalamten iya Marianas. Esta pa'gu mampos abarambau gi hinasson i man-ma-elihe haf' siña machogue pot adelanton hagas tradision—gualu yan rikesan tasi. Sige ha' maliliku'e i kareta ma-espipiha i yabe. Lau hagas gaige i yabe gi sagaña.

Gi hilu' este, haf' mohon para futturon i famaguon-ta? Kau u fañaunau lokue' lumilikue' karetan guaka lau hagas ma-onse i toru gi sagaña? Debi umatulaika kustumbren tramposu, muron yan kabron. Ni unu gi señgsoñg mumirese este na fatsun maña ginen i man-ma-elihe siha.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A time for bold actions

I attended the first townhall meeting called by our Gov. Eloy S. Inos about the Retirement Fund settlement agreement. In the interest of moving forward with the settlement, I am in agreement with the governor from a practical and technical point of view. However, there still remains much to be done.

I would like, though, to disagree with the 25-percent cut for our CNMI Retirement Fund pensions. First, please let me begin by saying that I am not a pensioner and so I have no personal thing for me to gain in this matter. Having said this, I also would like to say that our pensioners are the innocent parties. Most of the blame should go to our government and legislative leaders, both past and present, and here are the reasons:

This pension program, many say, is one of the most generous programs ever invented by man. Is this because we grow money in our backyard or is this because the program has been used as a primary tool for electing politicians beyond their usefulness without any term limits?

The impetus to providing workable solutions to lengthen the lifespan of this pension plan, or to make it more sustainable, only began a few years ago. What does this tell us about our government? And why is this a habit of our government to wait until all hell breaks loose? Is there such a thing as a planning requirement for operating government programs, particularly for those programs affecting our livelihood and welfare?

The pension program is a contract and so the Northern Marianas government needs to live up to its commitment to our pensioners, and shortchanging it by 25 percent is a huge cut to any pensioner. I call this catastrophic change at a time when they depend on it to cover skyrocketing costs of goods and services, which are rising faster than ever before. To lose 25 percent of your income today in the Northern Marianas is tantamount to losing 50 percent of your well-being and livelihood—a tremendous setback in our ability to enjoy a progressively higher standard of living as an American as clearly provided for in our Covenant relations with the United States.

Our people have been heavily burdened by rising costs of goods and services over the past 10 years, while their income continues to dwindle or lose their purchasing power. What can our leaders do and what are the options? One, they can take the view that things will take care of themselves through some kind of magical means and they just sit up on Capitol Hill in a relaxing mode, continuing to do nothing as before. Or two, they can begin to offer some solutions and make it abundantly clear that things can no longer continue to operate the same way as before. Or three, they can operate in a wait-and-see mode, waiting for something to again happen in a crisis and then do nothing again.

The commitment of our government to our retirement program covering those who have retired and are active members should be one of its highest priorities and this calls for great leadership. From my prospective, I feel that our Gov. Inos has been trying with all his might to secure and protect the contractual integrity of our retirement program. What about our legislative leaders, what have they been doing? We need bold legislative actions to remedy the multifaceted problems of our retirement program, actions relating to new revenue generation and not a new revenue generation that penalizes and burdens the future generations of our people. Legislative action to me means applying the art of compromise in moving a piece of legislation successfully in both houses of the Legislature for the governor or people's approvals.

"With every crisis comes opportunity," they say, and our leaders have the unique opportunity to make the most of it in the best interest of the people of the Northern Marianas. There is no reason to keep fighting crisis after crisis in our government and believe that it is about time that we have a planning division that truly does real planning instead of crisis planning! The complex modern world needs it to survive!

Juan S. Demapan
San Vicente, Saipan

Open letter to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota senators

Since all public hearings for all three islands had been conducted for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, the senators should be able to deliberate on their findings. As they deliberate, they should be mindful of the preliminary settlement agreement announced last week by all parties involved. One of the requirements of the agreement is for the CNMI government to make annual payments to the Fund trust account for 75 percent of class members benefits.

The schedule of payments is as follows:

2014 - $25million	2018 - $45 million	2022 - $41 million
2015 - $27 million	2019 - $44 million	2023 - $40 million
2016 - $30 million	2020 - $43 million	2024 - $39 million
2017 - $33 million	2021 - $42 million	

Total: $409 million, almost half a billion dollars.

In the event that the government fails to pay any of the annual payments, then the government is in default and must pay $779 million.

Senators, if you want to solve the aforementioned liability at least for two consecutive years starting in 2014 and 2015, the Saipan casino bill, House Bill 18-45, should be passed by your body so that the Commonwealth can realize at least $45 million from the three casino licenses that the bill authorizes. H.B. 18-45 allows at least three casino licenses to be issued to potential investors. Once the investor is granted a license, the investor must pay a casino license fee at a minimum of $15 million within 90 days after issuance of the license. Three licenses will be available, thus 3 x $15 million = $45 million. The $15 million is an advance payment for five years at $3 million per year. No other industry can accomplish this immediate cash infusion into our depressed economy!

The Commonwealth's solution to its humongous financial strait is in your court. Do the right thing and reduce the chances of a real bankrupt government! Just imagine if the government is in default in any of the payments in the settlement agreement. Where will it get the lump-sum money to pay the $779 million? Senators, please don't let the federal bomb explode on our Commonwealth's demise!

Vicente M. Sablan
Kagman III, Saipan

KINSHIP

From Page 10

disadvantage when dealing with other nations. I think the idea that we should elevate the interests of our country above those of all others, at a time when so many nations have weapons of mass destruction, threatens the security of every person on the planet.

My parents placed their faith in the U.S.S.R., a nation they felt represented the interests of the working class, which they believed included the vast majority of the world's people. I think they were misguided. While some countries may be a lot better than others, none has evolved to the point of deserving uncritical support. Although I do not reflexively reject the application of all state power, my primary identification is with humanity as a whole.

Manning also wrote: "I can't separate myself from others," and he continued, "I feel connected to everybody … like they were distant family." Isn't that how we all should be thinking? Manning believed that everyone in this messy human family we've created deserved to know the truth, and he was so appalled by what he considered U.S. war crimes in Iraq that he felt compelled to act. He will go to prison for that.

Meanwhile, those responsible for the things Manning revealed will go unpunished. And our leaders will continue to do everything in their power to hide the truth.

I wish all the world's armies were made up of people like Bradley Manning.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

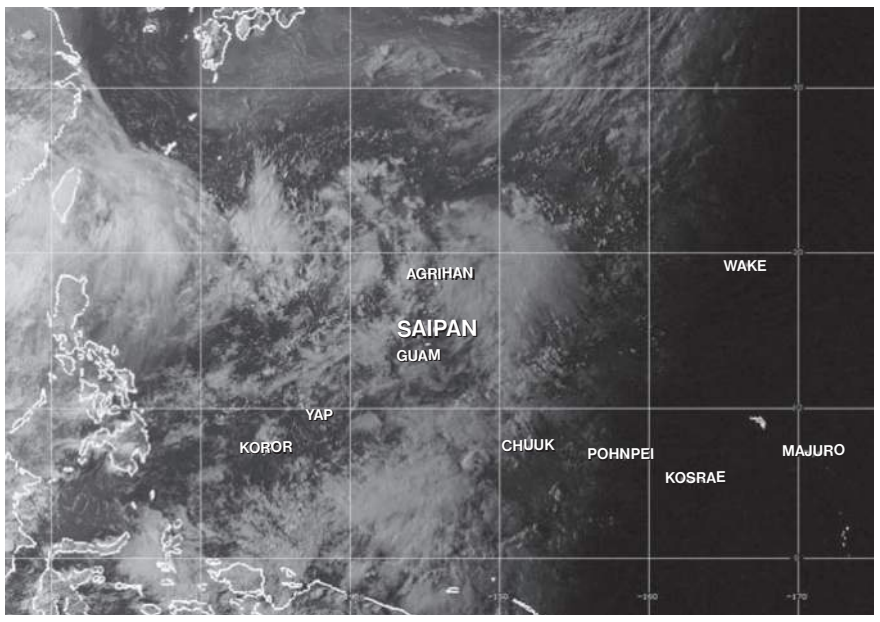
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88	▼80
Palau	Showers	▲82	▼75
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼76
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲61	▼52
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼75
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼83
Honolulu	Sunny	▲87	▼75
London	Showers	▲77	▼61
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼66
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90	▼78
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲63	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼62
Osaka	Sunny	▲96	▼80
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼56
Pusan	Windy	▲88	▼78
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼68
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼62
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼59
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Tokyo	Sunny	▲93	▼79
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲80	▼64

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak circulation is centered southwest of Iwo To Island at 24N137E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found between 18N and 22N from 131E to 142E. A surface trough near the Marianas extends northward from 15N147E to 22N148E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring between the northern CNMI and Minami Tori Shima Between 15N and 23N from 146E to 154E. A surface trough stretches northeastward from EQ143E to 12N153E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are southeast of Koror and west of Chuuk within 250 miles of a line from EQ141E to 7N150E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:34 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
9:04 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
3:58 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
8:49 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:40 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:39 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:39 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	6:38 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:02 PM	
Friday	2:01 AM	12:44 AM
Saturday	3:01 AM	1:43 AM
Sunday	3:59 AM	2:44 AM
Monday	4:55 AM	3:47 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 10, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
OZ1077	4:50am	7:10am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)			
DL583	5:50am	8:30am	2, 5, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ612	3:40am	7:20am	Daily
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)			
SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	10:10am	10:45am	6
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:30am+1	Daily
OZ1087	10:00pm	2:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN			
DL582	8:30pm	1:00am+1	1, 4, 5
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ611	9:10pm	2:40am+1	Daily
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN			
SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

UOG anthropology students dig deep in Ifugao Field School

Five University of Guam anthropology students and anthropology professor Stephen Acabado were among the team excavating the Banaue Rice Terraces in the Ifugao Mountains of the Philippines as part of UOG's Ifugao Archeological Field School. The six-week course began in June as part of a five-year project aimed at uncovering the archaeological mysteries of the terraces.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

UOG president Dr. Robert Underwood visits with members of the UOG Archaeological Field School in Ifugao, Philippines. From left to right: Dr. Stepehen Acabado, Alea Dugan, Dr. Robert Underwood, Joffrey Martinez (seated), Brent Coffman, Gera Datuin, Charmaine Ledesma, and Jacy Moore.

Though already in the second year of the project, Acabado said the team has barely scratched the surface. "For this research program, the scholarly goals go hand in hand with the training goals," he said.

The archaeologists are moving from shallow matters about the age of the terraces to deeper questions about the social organization of the highland people. "We wanted to lay to rest the debates on the age of the rice terraces," Acabado said. "After we figured out the terraces are younger than previously thought, more interesting questions in archaeology and anthropology surfaced." To delve into these mysteries, students spent over a month searching for artifacts in the Ifugao Mountains.

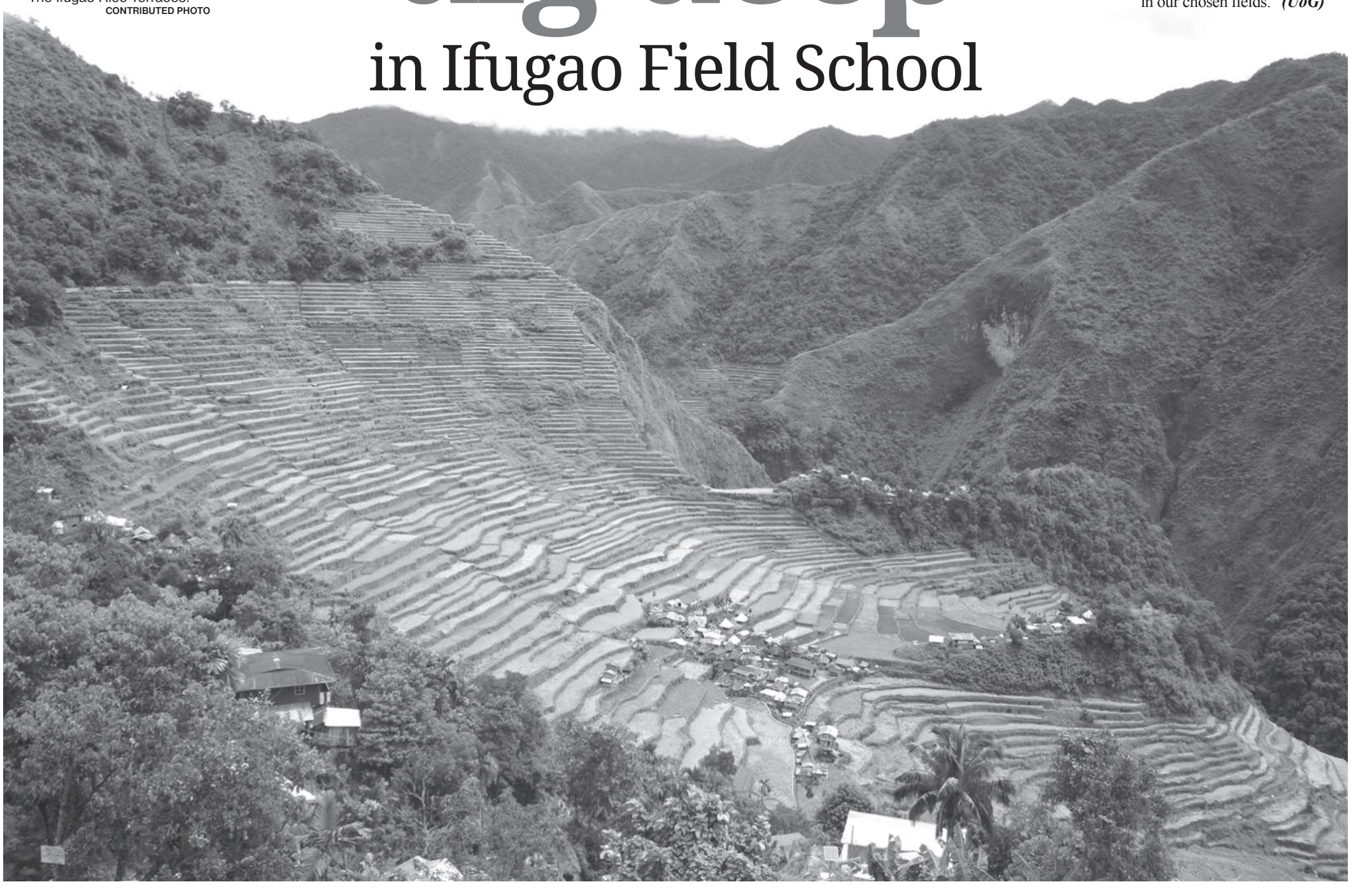
Jacy Moore, an anthropology graduate of the University of Guam, described a typical day in the field school program. "We would wake up at around 5am or 6am, have breakfast, and be on the jeepney by seven in the morning to get to the site about an hour away," she said. "Once we arrive at the site, we separate into groups of three to five people based on the size of the trench we're working on and begin excavating."

For the first few weeks, the students worked on the site for eight hours a day, seven days a week. Only after making considerable progress did the students take a half-day off on Sundays. "It's hard work," said anthropology student Mariana Sanders. "You learn a lot about yourself during this field school."

At the end of six weeks, the students hosted community talks to share their discoveries with the people of the Ifugao Province. "This year, we found a lot of baby bones and evidence of baby burials, so we did a community presentation on osteology, which is the scientific study of bones," said anthropology student Jeffrey Martinez.

Though each student faced a unique set of challenges ranging from physical trials to uncontrollable environmental conditions, all agree that their experiences at Ifugao opened dozens of doors for employment in the archaeological field. "In terms of archaeology, classroom courses focus more on theory," Sanders added. "In terms of methodology, all of that is learned in the field. As a UOG student, courses like this gives us great insight and experience in our chosen fields." ***(UoG)***

The Ifugao Rice Terraces.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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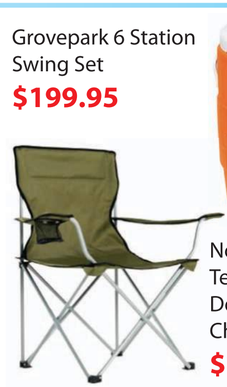

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Business

Govt sues to block airline merger

DALLAS (AP)—American Airlines and US Airways expected to spend this week cruising toward completion of a merger that would create the world's biggest airline.

Instead, they were stunned Tuesday when the federal government and six states sued to block the deal, saying it would hurt competition and cost consumers hundreds of millions of dollars a year in higher fares and extra fees.

Antitrust regulators had done little to interfere with other big airline mergers in the past five years, including Delta-Northwest and United-Continental. So, they were not expected to stand in the way of American and US Airways. But this latest deal would leave four airlines controlling more than 80 percent of the U.S. air-travel market.

"By further reducing the number of legacy airlines and aligning the economic incentives of those that remain, the merger of US Airways and American would make it easier for the remaining airlines to cooperate, rather than compete, on price and service," the lawsuit said.

The Justice Department turned the words of US Airways leaders against them. The 56-page complaint filed in federal district court in Washington, D.C., was peppered with quotes from internal emails, investor presentations and public comments in which top executives noted that previous mergers had helped lead to higher fares and higher fees to check a bag or change a ticket.

Shares of both companies plunged, and executives vowed to challenge the lawsuit.

AP

In this Thursday, Feb. 14, 2013 file photo, U.S. Airways and American Airlines planes are shown at gates at DFW International Airport in Grapevine, Texas.

"We will fight them," declared US Airways CEO Doug Parker, who would run the combined company.

Paul Denis, a Washington antitrust lawyer hired by US Airways, said Tuesday would be the Justice Department's "best day" in the matter.

"They got to hold their press conference. Now they've got to try their case in court," he said.

Tom Horton, CEO of American Airlines parent AMR Corp., said the companies had spent months trying to convince the Justice Department that the merger would help customers and boost competition by creating a tough new rival to larger airlines United and Delta.

AMR has been operating under bankruptcy protection since November 2011. It has cut labor costs, renegotiated aircraft and other leases and earned $220 million profit in the second quarter—its first profit in the April-to-June period in six years. It is forging ahead with an order for hundreds of new airplanes.

The company had expected the highlight of this week to be a Thursday hearing in which a federal bankruptcy court judge would approve its reorganization plan, including the merger. That would be one of the final steps before AMR could exit Chapter 11 protection by the end of September.

The hearing is likely to go ahead, and the judge could approve AMR's turnaround plan on the condition that the Justice Department's opposition is resolved. But AMR probably won't come out of bankruptcy for at least a few more months while it fights the lawsuit, officials at the companies said.

American and US Airways had been so confident of a quick merger that they had already named executives for the combined company, which was to be based at AMR's headquarters in Fort Worth and called American Airlines Group Inc. Executives at Tempe, Ariz.-based US Airways have been house-hunting in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Govt uses airline executives' words against them

NEW YORK (AP)—In making its case against an American Airlines-US Airways merger, the government relies heavily on an unusual source of evidence: the airlines' own executives.

Throughout the 56-page lawsuit filed Tuesday, Department of Justice lawyers quote internal emails, investor presentations and public comments by the two airlines' top executives noting how past mergers have allowed the industry to raise fares and given passengers no choice but to put up with ever-increasing fees for checking a bag or changing flights.

The suit recalls how US Airways President Scott Kirby noted in 2011 that industry consolidation had paved the way for the airlines to push through three airfare hikes that year. The next year, speaking at an industry conference, Kirby noted that it's "impossible to overstate the benefit" of mergers in giving airlines the ability to impose new fees.

Lawyers noted some hypocrisy in how the executives view mergers. They talk about how much money they are making because of consolidation. At the same time, they claim that one more big combination will lower fares through "unspecified or unverified `synergies.'"

All of that calls into question the executives' sincerity, the government says.

"By making claims about the benefits that are at odds with their prior statements on the likely effects of this merger," the government says American and US Airways executives are "saying what they believe needs to be said to pass antitrust scrutiny."

Mergers hurt fliers in several ways, the government says.

With fewer choices, consumers can't protest added fees or higher prices. That means one airline often quickly follows the other in raising prices or charging new fees.

For example, when American announced a charge for a first checked bag on May 21, 2008, United and US Airways introduced their own luggage fees just three weeks later.

"Similarly, over a period of just two weeks this spring, all four legacy airlines increased their ticket change fee for domestic travel from $150 to $200," the suit notes.

But the real damage from five years of industry consolidation shows up in airfares.

The average cost of a roundtrip domestic ticket—including baggage and reservation change fees—grew to $378.62 last year, up from $351.48 in 2008, when adjusted for inflation.

American and US Airways only overlap on 12 nonstop routes, mostly between each other's hubs. Seven of them have no competition.

Nation

Rubio warns that Obama could act to legalize 11M immigrants

WASHINGTON (AP)—Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio warned Tuesday that if Congress doesn't pass immigration overhaul legislation, President Barack Obama may act on his own to legalize the 11 million immigrants already in the U.S. illegally.

Rubio

Rubio, a potential presidential candidate and an author of the sweeping immigration bill that passed the Senate in June but stalled in the House, noted that the Obama administration took action a year ago to give legal status to many immigrants brought here illegally as children. He said without congressional action, the president might well be tempted to do the same for everyone else here illegally, too.

"I believe that this president will be tempted, if nothing happens in Congress, he will be tempted to issue an executive order like he did for the DREAM Act kids a year ago where he basically legalizes 11 million people by the sign of a pen," Rubio said on "The Morning Show with Preston Scott" on Tallahassee radio station WFLA.

Rubio said the possibility highlighted the need for congressional action because the alternative would be legalization without benefits like border security and an E-Verify system to require employers to check their workers' legal status.

"We can't leave it, in my mind, the way it is because I think a year from now we could find ourselves with all 11 million people here legally under an executive order from the president, but no E-Verify, no more border security, no more border agents—none of the other reforms that we desperately need," Rubio said.

The White House disputed Rubio's comments.

Asked whether Obama would be "tempted" to issue executive orders as Rubio suggested, White House spokesman Bobby Whithorne said, "No. The only solution to this problem is for Congress to fix the broken immigration system by passing comprehensive reform."

Rubio's comments came with lawmakers back home in their districts for Congress' five-week summer recess, which activists on both sides of the immigration issue are trying to use to make their case for or against action in the GOP-controlled House.

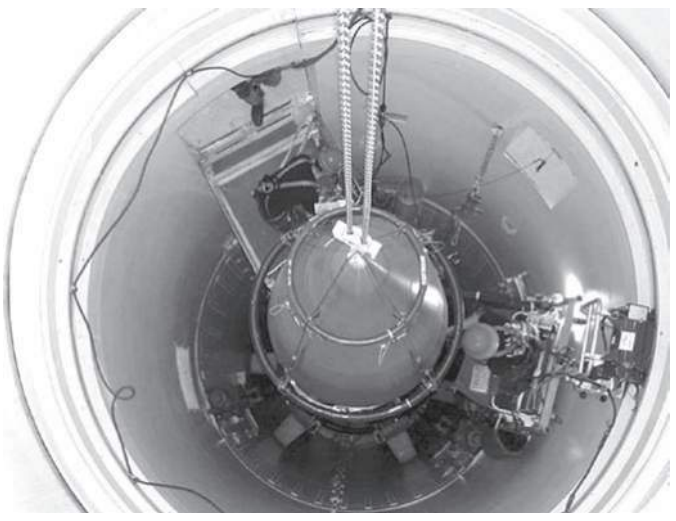
Air Force nuclear unit fails key security test

WASHINGTON (AP)—An Air Force unit that operates one-third of the nation's land-based nuclear missiles has failed a safety and security inspection, marking the second major setback this year for a force charged with the military's most sensitive mission, the general in charge of the nuclear air force told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Lt. Gen. James M. Kowalski, commander of Air Force Global Strike Command, said a team of "relatively low-ranking" airmen failed one exercise as part of a broader inspection, which began last week and ended Tuesday. He said that for security reasons he could not be specific about the team or the exercise.

"This unit fumbled on this exercise," Kowalski said by telephone from his headquarters at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., adding that this did not call into question the safety or control of nuclear weapons at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana.

"The team did not demonstrate the right procedures," he said, and as a result was rated a failure.



AP

In this image released by the U.S. Air Force, a Malmstrom Air Force Base missile maintenance team removes the upper section of an ICBM at a Montana missile site.

To elaborate "could reveal a potential vulnerability" in the force, Kowalski said.

In a written statement on its website, Kowalski's command said there had been "tactical-level errors" in the snap exercise, revealing "discrepancies."

ACROSS THE NATION

Polish climber dies on Mount Hood

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—A Polish military officer visiting the United States for training with a drone manufacturer fell about 1,000 feet to his death while recreationally climbing Oregon's Mount Hood, authorities said. The body of 32-year-old Sebastian Kinasiewicz was spotted from the air Tuesday by a National Guard helicopter, ending a search that started a day earlier. Sgt. Pete Hughes of the Hood River County sheriff's office said it was too dangerous to immediately recover the body because boulders were falling nearby. Kinasiewicz decided to climb Mount Hood because several members of a military unit from Poland did so last year and planted the country's flag.

Man releases 1 of 3 hostages from La. bank

ST. JOSEPH, La. (AP)—Authorities say a man who took three people hostage at a rural Louisiana bank has released a female bank teller and that negotiations are continuing to secure the release of the other two, a man and a woman. Louisiana State Police superintendent Col. Mike Edmonson confirmed the release of the hostage Tuesday night. He said authorities were talking with her about the nine-hour ordeal. Police said the hostage-taker, whom they have not identified, is a 20-year-old man whose family owns a store across the street from the bank branch. Authorities have said they have no reason to believe any of the hostages have been harmed.

Asia

Beijing cracks down on bizarre villa

BEIJING (AP)—A medicine mogul spent six years building his own private mountain peak and luxury villa atop a high-rise apartment block in China's capital, earning the unofficial title of "most outrageous illegal structure." Now, authorities are giving him 15 days to tear it down.

The craggy complex of rooms, rocks, trees and bushes looming over the 26-story building looks like something built into a seaside cliff, and has become the latest symbol of disregard for the law among the rich as well as the rampant practice of building illegal additions.

Angry neighbors say they've complained for years that the unauthorized, 800-square-meter (8,600-sq. feet) mansion and its attached landscaping was damaging the building's structural integrity and its pipe system, but that local authorities failed to crack down. They've also complained about loud, late-night parties.

"They've been renovating for years. They normally do it at night," said a resident on the building's 25th floor, who added that any attempts to reason with the owner were met with indifference. "He was very arrogant. He could care less about my complaints," said the neighbor, who declined to give his name to avoid repercussions.

AP

A rooftop villa complete with rocks and flora seen built on top of a high rise residential building stands in Beijing, China, Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2013.

Haidian district urban management official Dai Jun said Tuesday that authorities would tear the two-story structure down in 15 days unless the owner does so himself or presents evidence it was legally built. Dai said his office has yet to receive such evidence.

The villa's owner has been identified as the head of a traditional Chinese medicine business and former member of the district's political advisory body who resides on the building's 26th floor. Contacted by Beijing Times newspaper, the man said he would comply with the district's orders, but he belittled attempts to call the structure a villa, calling it "just an ornamental garden."

Authorities took action only after photos of the villa were splashed across Chinese media on Monday. Newspapers have fronted their editions with large photographs of the complex, along with the headline "Beijing's most outrageous illegal structure."

The case has resonance among ordinary Chinese who regularly see the rich and politically connected receive special treatment. Expensive vehicles lacking license plates are a common sight, while luxury housing complexes that surround Beijing and other cities are often built on land appropriated from farmers with little compensation.

ASIAN BRIEFS

1 killed, dozens hurt in Bangladesh party protests

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Clashes between Bangladeshi police and opposition activists left one man dead and injured about 20 Wednesday in the second day of a nationwide general strike, television stations reported. Police used night sticks and tear gas as dozens of protesters tried to march into the streets of Dhaka's southern Jatrabari suburb, according to Dhaka's private Somoy TV and RTV. Police officials could not be immediately reached for comment. On Tuesday, opposition activists exploded crude bombs, blocked roads and burned vehicles to enforce a 48-hour nationwide general strike, injuring dozens of people.

2 Koreas to hold crucial talks on factory complex

PAJU, South Korea (AP)—South Korean officials went to a North Korean border city Wednesday for talks that could determine the fate of a shuttered factory park the rivals jointly ran until North Korea pulled out its workers in April. The Kaesong industrial complex, which sits just north of the heavily armed border in North Korea's third largest city, was the last remaining symbol of cooperation between the Koreas until Pyongyang halted operations during a torrent of threats that included vows of nuclear strikes on Washington and Seoul.

Indian submarine catches fire, sinks in port

NEW DELHI (AP)—An Indian navy submarine with about 18 sailors on board caught fire after an explosion and sunk early Wednesday at its home port in Mumbai. Efforts were being made to ascertain the safety of the personnel and salvage the submarine, navy spokesman Narendra Vispute said. The vessel is powered by diesel and electricity. After the fire, the sub was submerged at its berth in the naval dockyard with only a portion visible above the surface. Vispute said an explosion on the submarine caused a major fire. The cause is being investigated.

HK buttons up as typhoon passes on way to China

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong closed offices, schools and transportation services and the stock market was halted on Wednesday morning as a typhoon passed by the Asian financial center. Dozens of flights were canceled and bus and ferry services were curtailed as Typhoon Utor approached. Winds gusted up to 139 kph (86 mph). The center of the storm was about expected to skirt around 250 kilometers (155 miles) southwest of Hong Kong before hitting southern China's Guangdong province.

Hand grenade attacks kill 2, wound 30 in Pakistan

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—Police say a pair of hand grenade attacks on minority Ismaili prayer houses in southern Pakistan have killed two people and wounded 30 others. Police officer Amir Farooqi says the attacks occurred 30 minutes apart Tuesday in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city. The assailants targeted Ismailis, who make up a branch of Shiite Islam. Farooqi says the dead included a woman and a child and many of the wounded are also women and children.

Official: Bodies of 8 abducted Afghans found

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A provincial official says the bodies of eight Afghans abducted last week and then killed by insurgents have been found, dumped along the country's main north-south highway. Mohammad Ali Ahmadi, deputy governor of Ghazni province, said Tuesday the eight men were civilians snatched off a bus by insurgents during last week's Eid al-Fitr holiday that marked the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

World

Israel frees 26 Palestinian prisoners

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel released 26 Palestinian inmates, including many convicted in grisly killings, on the eve of long-stalled Mideast peace talks, angering families of those slain by the prisoners, who were welcomed as heroes in the West Bank and Gaza.

Buses carrying the inmates departed the Ayalon prison in central Israel late Tuesday, a nighttime release that was aimed at preventing the spectacle of prisoners flashing victory signs as has happened in the past. Relatives of the victims, many with their hands painted red to symbolize what they say is the blood on the hands of the inmates, held protests throughout the day, and some protesters tried briefly to block the buses from leaving.

The decision to release the men stirred anguish in Israel, where many Israelis view them as terrorists. Most of the prisoners were convicted of killings, including Israeli civilians, soldiers and suspected Palestinian collaborators, while others were involved in attempted murder or kidnapping.

Celebrations erupted in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where thousands of Palestinian well-wishers awaited the buses' arrival. Palestinians generally view the prisoners as heroes regardless of their acts, arguing they made personal sacrifices in the struggle for independence.

AP

Palestinian relatives jump to a vehicle carried 15 released prisoners upon their arrival to Beit Hanoun checkpoint between Israel and northern Gaza Strip, Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2013.

Fireworks lit the sky in Gaza, where rival Hamas and Fatah supporters, including several masked gunmen, celebrated to the beat of drums. Some danced while others flashed victory signs and waved flags of the Palestinian factions. Cars with loudspeakers blasted nationalistic songs.

"Today is a day of joy and happiness. I can't wait until I hug my beloved son," said Aicha Abu Setta, the 68-year-old mother of freed prisoner Alla Abu Setta.

"I am so excited that he will be free and he will spend his first night among us after more than 20 years," she said, clutching a picture of her 43-year-old son, who was arrested in 1994, charged, along with his cousin, of killing a soldier.

Palestinians hurled rocks at the Israeli military vehicles escorting the bus convoy as it reached the crossing to the West Bank after 1 a.m.

Egyptian troops move vs pro-Morsi sit-ins

CAIRO (AP)—Egyptian security forces, backed by armored cars and bulldozers, moved on Wednesday to clear two sit-in camps by supporters of the country's ousted President Mohammed Morsi, showering protesters with tear gas as the sound of gunfire rang out at both sites, state television and security officials said.

The Anti-Coup Alliance, an umbrella of pro-Morsi supporters, said in a statement that 25 were killed and dozens injured in the attack on the larger of the two protest camps in the eastern district of Nasr City.

There was no official word on casualties among the protesters in either camp, but state television said one policeman was killed. The Interior Ministry, which is in charge of police, warned in a statement that the forces would deal firmly with protesters acting "irresponsibly" and said it would guarantee safe passage to those who want to leave the sites.

An Associated Press television video journalist at the scene of the larger of the two camps said he could hear the screams of women as a cloud of white smoke hung over the site in the eastern Cairo suburb of Nasr City. He said a bulldozer was removing mounds of sand bags and brick walls built by the protesters as a defense line in their camp. Army troops, however, were not taking part in the operation.

The simultaneous actions by the Egyptian forces—at the pro-Morsi encampment in Nasr City and at the site outside the main campus of Cairo University on the other side of the city- began around 7 a.m. (0500 GMT). Helicopters hovered over the two sites.

Regional television networks are showing images of collapsed tents and burning tires at both sites, with ambulances on standby at the scene. They were also showing protesters being arrested and led away by the troops.

At least 250 people have died in clashes in Egypt following Morsi's ouster in a military coup that followed days of mass protests by millions of Egyptians calling for his removal.

Supporters of the Islamist president want him reinstated.

WORLD BRIEFS

Nigerians want weapons after deadly mosque attack

KONDUGA, Nigeria (AP)—Residents of a village in northeastern Nigeria where suspected Islamic extremists gunned down 47 worshippers praying in a mosque demanded on Tuesday that the government give them weapons to defend themselves. Earlier reports about Sunday's attack in Konduga village had given a lower death toll, 44. Another 12 civilians died in a simultaneous attack on a nearby village, security agents said. The violence has been blamed on the Boko Haram terrorist network, and district head Yale Zannah Masu told The Associated Press that his village of Konduga was besieged for hours by "terrorists"—including women who set ablaze 51 homes.

Soccer-loving pope cheers Messi, other players

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis cheered fellow Argentine Lionel Messi and other soccer stars Tuesday as he led a morality-focused pep rally of sorts at the Vatican for Argentina and Italy's national teams ahead of their eagerly awaited friendly match. Francis, the first pontiff from Latin America, is an avid soccer fan who roots for the Saints of San Lorenzo back in Buenos Aires. Barcelona star Messi, his teammates on the Argentine national soccer squad, as well as Italy's national team players were treated to a private audience with Francis in the Apostolic Palace ahead of Wednesday's rare match, which is being played in tribute to the new pope.

Environment

Amazon conservation experiment faces economic reality

By JIM WYSS
THE MIAMI HERALD

TIPUTINI RIVER, Ecuador—Waving away a cloud of gnats, biologist Phyllis "Lissy" Coley scours the Amazonian underbrush for inga shrubs, whose young leaves are loaded with powerful toxins and chemicals that might be useful in medical research.

Coley and her team from the University of Utah have spent almost two years in the Amazon of Guyana, Peru and Brazil researching the plant—but this patch of Ecuador was delivering surprises. In a single week, Coley's team found 60 species of inga, 40 of which were unknown to them—and likely unknown to science. They also found a carnivorous caterpillar. While flesh-eating caterpillars exist in Asia, they've never been recorded in the New World.

The mysteries of this forest—that scientists like Coley are still discovering—could be at risk after this South American nation quietly began considering pulling the plug on one of the most innovative and ambitious conservation plans ever attempted.

The Yasuni-ITT Initiative was designed to leave more than 846 million barrels of crude oil untouched, in perpetuity, beneath Yasuni National Park—rioting with unknown species and tribes living in voluntary isolation.

In exchange, the government asked the world to cover just half of the crude's $7.2 billion market price.

Environmental groups praised the plan as a novel way to slash climate-disrupting greenhouse gases. In 2010, the United Nations threw its support behind the project, setting up a trust fund to receive and manage donations. There were hopes that crowd-sourcing conservation might be a model for other developing nations.

But six years after its launch, those goals are proving elusive. The plan has raised less than 10 percent of the $3.6 billion it's seeking. Ecuador's government says it has received $116.7 million and has pledges for an additional $220 million—some of it in non-cash cooperation. The United Nations trust fund has just $9.8 million in the bank.

The shortfall is driving speculation that Ecuador might be forced to drill for crude in the ITT oil block (short for Ishpingo, Tambococha, Tiputini), which it says holds 20 percent of the nation's reserves.

"We want to keep 400 million tons of CO2 out of the atmosphere," President Rafael Correa told a crowd in April. "But if the international community doesn't help share the responsibility, we have to make the best decision for the Ecuadorean people."

Correa and his cabinet held a meeting about the fate of the project in June and are expecting to meet again in coming weeks. Officials say drilling the ITT is on the table.

In the balance is one of the most biodiverse spots on the planet. The ITT block is among the most isolated areas of Yasuni National Park, a 2.4 million-acre U.N. biosphere reserve, which holds about one-third of all of the Amazon's amphibian species, even though it represents just a small fraction of the total area. In any given two-and-a-half acre plot of the Yasuni—roughly the size of a soccer pitch—there are more species of trees than in the United States and Canada combined.

"As a biologist, nothing makes me more awestruck than to work in an incredibly diverse and pristine area where every day you discover something that you couldn't even imagine or anticipate," Coley said.

Even so, she understands the financial pressure Ecuador is facing.

"You can't expect countries just to save rainforest because they're amazing places and we would, as humans, like to keep them around," she said. "Given the potential to make oil money from here, I think it's a remarkably generous offer to say to the rest of the world, 'Can you contribute and we won't develop this area?'"

Ecuador needs the money. One of the poorest nations in South America, oil represents more than half of its export earnings and is the country's top source of revenue.

Keeping oil underground is like "a very poor family trying to protect the family jewels, in the meantime most of the people are starving to death," said David Romo, one of the directors of the University of San Francisco de Quito's Tiputini Biodiversity Station, which borders the park and where Coley was doing her research. "So how do you do the trade-off here? The initiative gives us an option for that."

Ivonne Baki is the former Ecuadorean ambassador to the United States, a one-time presidential candidate who speaks six languages. Now, she's traveling the world on behalf of the government, marshaling resources for the project.

While the initiative has seen a groundswell of popular support, she admits the financing has been disappointing. The government is considering "Plan B," which includes tapping the oil in the ITT block in a "conscientious" way. But keeping the oil underground is still the administration's priority, she said.

"We believe in conserving and we have done it before," she said. Twenty-five percent of Ecuador's territory is in a national park or protected area, including the world-renowned Galapagos Islands. By contrast, 12 percent of the United States is under protection, according to the World Database on Protected Areas.

The Yasuni-ITT Initiative is "an environmental service we are providing to the world, not just Ecuador," Baki said.

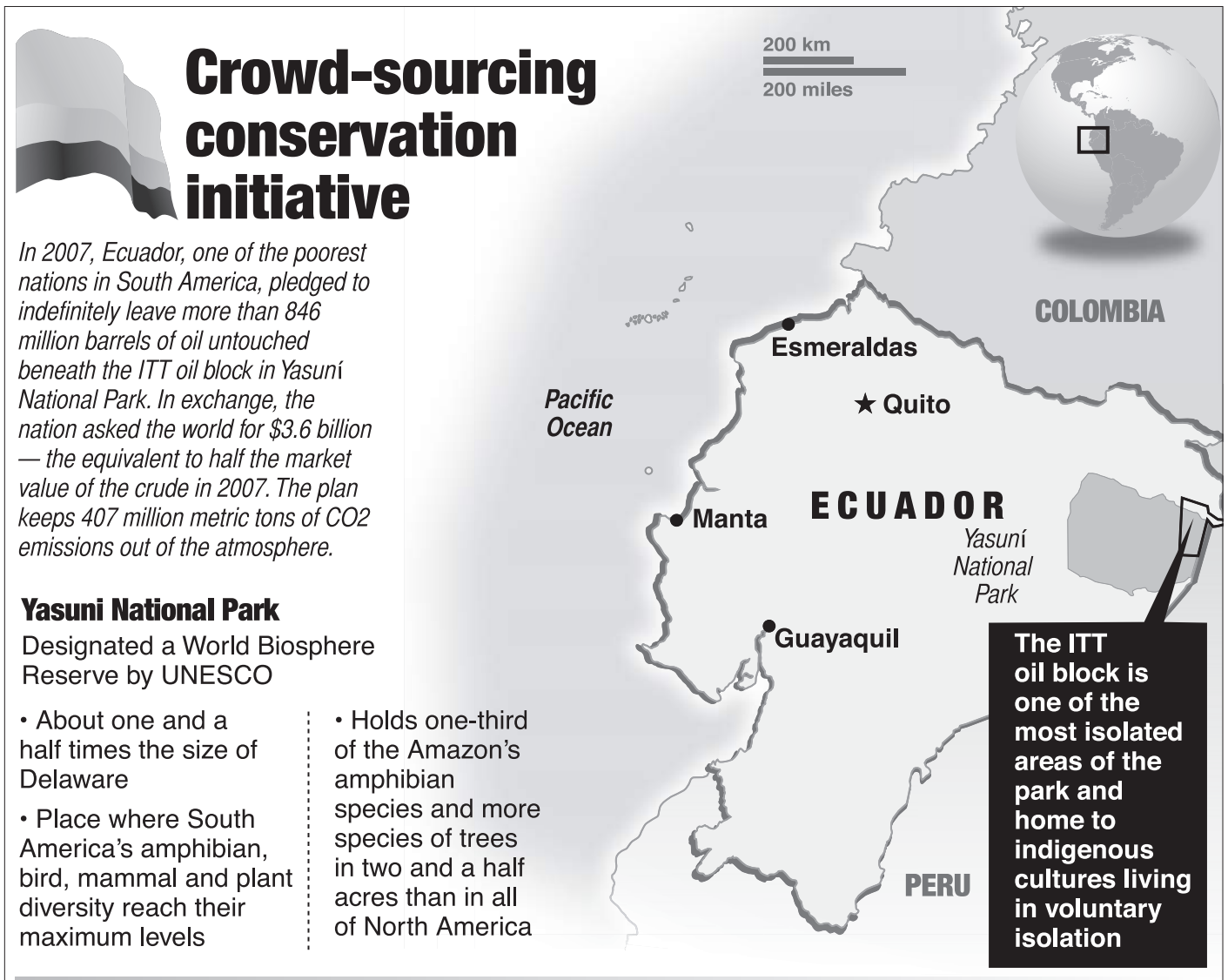
But the world seems deaf to the plea.

While countries like Italy, Germany, Spain, Turkey and Luxembourg have supported the effort, the United States—Ecuador's largest oil buyer and which has a long and troubled history of polluting the Amazon—has not contributed to the effort. Neither have gas guzzling nations like China, Japan or India.

Baki speculated that crude-consuming nations fear the model might be replicated and push fuel prices higher.

But critics say the country also has a credibility issue. The socialist-leaning Correa administration has broken pledges in the past, defaulting on the national debt in 2008, and unilaterally forcing oil companies to renegotiate their contracts.

And while the country touts the initiative, it's already exploring for oil in Yasuni National Park and has begun building a road in oil block 31, adjacent to the ITT area. It's also building a massive new refinery that's designed to process more oil than the country is currently producing.


Crowd-sourcing conservation initiative
In 2007, Ecuador, one of the poorest nations in South America, pledged to indefinitely leave more than 846 million barrels of oil untouched beneath the ITT oil block in Yasuní National Park. In exchange, the nation asked the world for $3.6 billion — the equivalent to half the market value of the crude in 2007. The plan keeps 407 million metric tons of CO2 emissions out of the atmosphere.
Yasuni National Park
Designated a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO
• About one and a half times the size of Delaware
• Place where South America's amphibian, bird, mammal and plant diversity reach their maximum levels
• Holds one-third of the Amazon's amphibian species and more species of trees in two and a half acres than in all of North America
200 km
200 miles
COLOMBIA
Esmeraldas
Pacific Ocean
★ Quito
Manta
ECUADOR
Yasuní National Park
Guayaquil
PERU
The ITT oil block is one of the most isolated areas of the park and home to indigenous cultures living in voluntary isolation
Fund has huge shortfall ...
Only $336.8 million of Ecuador's $3.6 billion asking price for the conservation initiative has been pledged or deposited
Pledged $220.1 million
Deposited 116.7 1 million
Shortfall 3.26 billion
... and the U.S. – Ecuador's top oil importer – is not a donor
While Italy has deposited $3.93 million and pledged another $40 million, the U.S. has yet to contribute; top depositors to Yasuni ITT Trust Fund, in millions
Italy $3.93
Spain 1.40
Luxembourg 1.33
Belgium 1.22
Ecuador 0.25
Oil is Ecuador's top export ...
In 2012, crude oil was Ecuador's No. 1 export, representing more than half of the country's $23.8 billion in total export earnings; total and top exports, in billions
Total $23.8
Crude oil 12.7
Bananas, plantains 2.05
Shellfish 1.24
Prepared fish, caviar 1.11
Petroleum oils, not crude 0.86
... and most of its oil ends up in the U.S.
More than 60 percent of the crude oil that Ecuador exported in 2012 went to the U.S.; top destinations for Ecuador's crude oil, in billions
U.S. $8.07
Panama 0.3
Japan 0.5
Others 0.5
Peru 1.65
Chile 1.66
Source: UNDP and Yasuni-ITT Initiative, International Trade Center, Central Bank of Ecuador
Graphic:Kara Dapena, Marco Ruiz, Miami Herald, PBS NewsHour
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Life & Style

Mars food study researchers emerge from dome

HONOLULU (AP)—Six researchers have spent the past four months living in a small dome on a barren Hawaii lava field at an elevation of 8,000 feet, trying to figure out what foods astronauts might eat on Mars and during deep-space missions.

They emerged on Tuesday with their recipes and without the space suits they were required to wear each time they ventured onto the northern slope of Mauna Loa—an active volcano that last erupted in 1984.

"It's a moment I'm going to remember for the rest of my life," said Oleg Abramov, a research space scientist at the U.S. Geological Survey Astrogeology branch in Flagstaff, Ariz. "Walking out ... experiencing the sunshine and wind on our faces."

The six researchers were selected by the University of Hawaii and Cornell University for the NASA-funded study to prepare meals from a list of dehydrated, preserved foods that are not perishable. They examined pre-prepared meals similar to what astronauts currently eat, and concocted meals themselves in an attempt to combat malnourishment and food boredom.

AP

In this June 4 2013 photo provided by the University of Hawaii, research space scientist Oleg Abramov walks outside simulated Martian base at Mauna Loa, Hawaii.

Members did their cooking in a two-story dome with small sleeping quarters, an exercise room and of course, a kitchen.

Team commander Angelo Vermeulen said Tuesday the problem with ingredients that aren't perishable is they're usually highly processed and lack fiber. He said he was impressed with how freeze dried products taste very similar to fresh produce.

But what is also important for future space missions is comfort food, he said. A favorite among the crew: Nutella, the chocolate-hazelnut spread. "It's something we craved," he said. "We had a limited supply so we had to ration it."

The study, dubbed Hawaii Space Exploration Analog and Simulation, included an open call for recipes that involved a lot of Spam. The canned meat, popular in Hawaii households, was a common ingredient in suggested recipes because of its shelf-life, said Kim Binsted, a UH-Manoa associate professor who is an investigator on the study but didn't live in the habitat.

The researchers prepared several dishes using Spam, including a Cajun jambalaya and a fried rice noodle dish.

She said Hawaii's temperate weather and Mauna Loa's geological features were a perfect setting for the study. The area is isolated, yet accessible, and has no visible plant or animal life.

"It looks like Mars," she said.

Team members will spend several days in debriefings after they emerge from the dome. They'll likely be disoriented from the experience, Binsted said, and they have requested a beach outing before returning to their regular lives.

"I'm not used to large crowds anymore," said Vermeulen, a biologist, space researcher, filmmaker, visual artist, community organizer and author. "We need to get used to people again."

One of the first things they did when they came out of the habitat was have a buffet breakfast. "They went straight to the fruits and vegetables," Binsted said. "They seemed delighted to have fresh fruits and vegetables."

It will take several months to process all the data gathered. Binsted hopes to present findings at the International Astronautical Congress later this year in Beijing.

Disfigured Spanish fresco is hit for artist, town

MADRID (AP)—A year ago, Cecilia Gimenez's botched attempt to restore a fresco of Christ inspired ridicule and references to monkeys. Now, the 81-year-old Spanish artist is having the last laugh.

The disfigured fresco has drawn more than 40,000 visitors and raised more than 50,000 euros ($66,285) for a local charity in the town of Borja since gaining worldwide attention. It has spurred the town to put the likeness on merchandise it hopes will sell for years to come. And Gimenez has even had her own art exhibit, with two dozen of her other works showing through Aug. 24 in the town of 5,000.

Gimenez and a local council are to sign a deal next week to share profits from merchandise featuring the image, with the artist getting 49 percent and the council the rest, said councilor Juan Maria Ojeda, who listed the tourism and income figures.

AP

In this combination of two undated handout photos made available by the Centro de Estudios Borjanos, the 20th century Ecce Homo-style fresco of Christ, left and the 'restored' version, at right.

The turnaround is apparently quite the relief for the Spanish retiree, who was overwhelmed by the attention a year ago.

"Now it seems like everyone's happy," local paper Heraldo de Aragon quoted the once-media shy Gimenez as saying in Sunday's edition. "I'm grateful that things have quieted down."

The fresco originally depicted Christ with a crown of thorns in a style known as "Ecce Homo" (Behold the Man). The church painting was for decades a little-known piece of religious art by a minor Spanish artist. It had remained in peaceful obscurity in the Misericordia sanctuary since it was painted in 1930.

That was until Gimenez, a longtime devotee of the work, decided it needed some attention because it was flaking due to the damp church air. Her attempt didn't go so well, and some dubbed Gimenez's retouching of it "Ecce Mono"—Behold the Monkey.

But soon the retouched version grew popular. The image started appearing—without authorization—on T-shirts and cellphone covers, coffee mugs and wine labels. People arrived in Borja asking to see the painting.

The council started charging an entrance fee of 1 euro ($1.30), giving the money to the Sancti Spiritus charitable foundation, which used the windfall to help pay bills at a care home for 60 elderly people. The council also got lawyers to establish copyright and draw up a merchandising agreement which will see the image put on plates, postcards and cigarette lighters, among other items.

"It's a timely agreement," Ojeda, the councilor, told The Associated Press by telephone from Borja. "The money is going to good causes."

Banksy 2008 street mural goes up for auction in US

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An original Banksy street mural is going up for auction for the first time in the United States.

The executive director of Julien's Auctions, Martin Nolan, says the company will sell Banksy's 2008 Los Angeles mural "Flower Girl" in December.

The piece originally appeared on the wall of a Hollywood gas station. It shows a black stenciled image of a girl holding a basket and looking up at a security camera atop a tall plant.

Nolan says the mural is expected to bring at least $150,000.

It will be among the lots featured at Julien's Street Art Auction on Dec. 5.

AP

This undated publicity photo released by Julien's Auctions shows the Banksy graffiti mural entitled, "Flower Girl," which formerly occupied a gas station in Los Angeles.

In Humble Gratitude

We, the family of the late

† Francisco A. Reyes

Wish to extend our deepest and warmest appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the genuine compassion you showed us during our greatest and most painful time of sorrow. Your thoughtful prayers, comfort, and unending support and other considerate acts of grace did much to calm the ache in our hearts and you have eased our sorrows and have become a source of strength.

Your presence and prayers at the nightly mass at the San Antonio Church and most especially at the Mass of Christian Burial were very comforting.

Our special thanks to Father Romil Aperocho. We would also like to thank the Doctors and Nurses from CHC.

Your kindness is deeply appreciated and you will be remembered always.

May God Bless you all.

Thank you and Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Rita I. Reyes and Children

Usher's son released from hospital after accident

ATLANTA (AP)—The son of Grammy-winning R&B singer Usher has been released from the hospital after nearly drowning in an Atlanta pool, a lawyer for the boy's mother said Tuesday.

Five-year-old Usher Raymond V was released from Children's Healthcare of Atlanta-Scottish Rite on Sunday, lawyer Angela Kinley said. She said Tameka Foster Raymond, the singer's ex-wife, saw her son at school Monday when he attended orientation for the new year.

Police say the boy fell to the bottom of a pool behind the singer's downtown home Aug. 5 and became stuck in the drain.

A housekeeper tried unsuccessfully to free him. Two men who were working at the home as audio-visual subcontractors were called to help, and the boy was eventually pulled from the pool then given CPR by one of the contractors.

Usher—who has recorded the multiplatinum R&B albums "My Way," ''8701" and "Confessions"—said in a statement last week that contractors Eugene Stachurski and Ben Crews are "heroes" for saving his son's life.

A day after the incident, a judge scheduled an emergency custody hearing requested by Raymond. A filing by Raymond's lawyer said the boy "suffered a near-death accident" while unsupervised at Usher's home when the singer was out of town.

But the singer's lawyer said Usher's aunt, Rena Oden, was poolside watching the children when the boy became stuck in the drain. John Mayoue also said Usher was at a music studio one highway exit away.

On Friday, Fulton County Superior Judge John Goger dismissed Raymond's request for temporary custody.

After the ruling, Usher approached his ex-wife, who broke down while testifying, and gave her a long hug.

Goger said he thought Raymond's standards for a caregiver were unusually high and pointed out that many people leave their children with family members.

Goger also advised the Usher, 34, to keep Raymond well advised of his whereabouts and who's taking care of the children.

Usher and Raymond married in 2007 and divorced two years later. After a lengthy battle, Usher was given primary custody of their boys, who are about a year apart in age.

The pool incident comes nearly a year after Raymond's 11-year-old son, Kile Glover, died of injuries suffered when he was run over by a personal watercraft on Lake Lanier, northeast of Atlanta.

Ashton Kutcher talks about becoming 'Jobs'

By DERRIK J. LANG
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's clear from Ashton Kutcher's tone—even though he's sitting 2,500 miles away in New York—that the 35-year-old actor and technology enthusiast holds an unflinching reverence for Steve Jobs, the Apple co-founder he portrays in the film "Jobs," opening Friday.

When he speaks about embodying the notoriously demanding Mac mastermind during a recent video conversation on Skype, in which Kutcher was an early investor, he's resolute and thoughtful. It's the antithesis of his goofball on-screen personas in TV series like "That '70s Show" and "Two and a Half Men" and in films such as "Dude, Where's My Car?" and "What Happens in Vegas."

For Kutcher, he says it was imperative that he personify, not parody, the well-documented mannerisms of Jobs, who died in 2011 of pancreatic cancer and will also be profiled in an untitled Sony film by Aaron Sorkin. Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, who's played by Josh Gad in "Jobs," has been hired as an adviser on the upcoming Sorkin film.

With "Jobs," Kutcher hopes his performance is as much a lesson about entrepreneurship to today's youth as it a profile of a man who revolutionized technology.

AP

In this Sunday, Aug. 4, 2013 photo, American actor, producer and star of the upcoming biographical drama, "Jobs," Ashton Kutcher poses for a portrait, in New York.

AP: You don't paint a spotless portrait of Steve Jobs in this film. How did you balance playing a man that's obviously an icon but also has flaws like everyone else?

Kutcher: I think Steve cared about the end result and wasn't worried about being liked and knew he would eventually be liked if his creations were properly executed. He was very blunt, but it's because he cared. I tried to look at his faults as his gifts, and I tried to understand it and not judge it. I think the way that guy received love in life was by creating products that people loved, and when they loved the products, they thereby loved him.

AP: How did you mentally prepare for the scenes where Jobs goes into beast mode and he's yelling and combative?

Kutcher: He was never just senselessly combative. I think there was something he desired, and he had a goal and passion for his consumers that were driving his frustration. He wanted the people around him to care as much about the result as he did. I think his frustration was in an effort to motivate people to care.

AP: Why do you think now is the right time for this story? It isn't too soon?

Kutcher: As time passes, I think the tales get taller. He'll become more glorified for the things he did right, and more vilified for the things he did wrong. We had a great opportunity to tell a story about a guy with an exponential amount of resources to inform us about what really happened—or as close to what really happened as they can recall.

AP: How do you feel about Steve Wozniak declaring some scenes weren't accurate after he saw footage of the film?

Kutcher: Steve Wozniak is being paid by another company to support their Steve Jobs film. It's personal for him, but it's also business. We have to keep that in mind. He was also extremely unavailable to us when producing this film. He's a brilliant man and I respect his work, but he wasn't available to us as a resource, so his account isn't going to be our account because we don't know exactly what it was. We did the best job we could. Nobody really knows what happened in the rooms.

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ELYSIUM [CC] (R)	(435 PM) 730 PM
JOBS [CC,DV] (PG-13)	900 PM
PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS 3D [CC] (PG)	(425 PM)
PLANES [CC] (PG)	710 PM
PLANES 3D [CC] (PG)	(445 PM)
PARANOIA [CC,DV] (PG)	1000 PM
WE'RE THE MILLERS [CC] (R)	(405 PM) 705 PM
2 GUNS [CC] (R)	(450 PM) 745 PM
SMURFS 2 3D [CC] (PG)	(430 PM)
THE WOLVERINE 3D [CC] (PG-13)	(415 PM)
THE WOLVERINE (PG-13)	720 PM

Times For 08/15 © 2013www.REGmovies.com

Oprah sorry for Switzerland incident over purse

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Oprah Winfrey says she's "sorry" about the media frenzy that emerged after she said she experienced racism during a trip to Switzerland.

"I think that incident in Switzerland was just an incident in Switzerland. I'm really sorry that it got blown up. I purposefully did not mention the name of the store. I'm sorry that I said it was Switzerland," Winfrey said, speaking at the premier of "Lee Daniels' "The Butler."

In a recent interview with "Entertainment Tonight," Winfrey recalled a clerk at an upscale Zurich boutique refusing to show her a handbag. Winfrey said she was told she could not afford the $38,000 purse.

"I'm in a store and the person doesn't obviously know that I carry the black card, and so they make an assessment based upon the way I look and who I am," said Winfrey, who earned $77 million in the year ending in June, according to Forbes magazine.

Winfrey

"I didn't have anything that said 'I have money': I wasn't wearing a diamond stud. I didn't have a pocketbook. I didn't wear Louboutin shoes. I didn't have anything," said Winfrey on the red carpet. "You should be able to go in a store looking like whatever you look like and say 'I'd like to see this.' That didn't happen."

Swiss tourism officials and the boutique owner apologized for the incident last week, but Winfrey insists there's no need.

"It's not an indictment against the country or even that store," she said. "It was just one person who didn't want to offer me the opportunity to see the bag. So no apologies necessary from the country of Switzerland. If somebody makes a mistake in the United States do we apologize in front of the whole country? No!"

"Lee Daniels' The Butler," which opens Friday, documents the civil rights movement through the story of a butler who served in the White House for seven presidents.

CHART TOPPERS

The top 10 songs and albums on the iTunes Store for the week ending Aug. 12, 2013:

TOP SONGS
1. "Blurred Lines (feat. T.I. & Pharrell)," Robin Thicke
2. "Holy Grail (feat. Justin Timberlake)," JAY Z
3. "We Can't Stop," Miley Cyrus
4. "Radioactive," Imagine Dragons
5. "Wake Me Up," Avicii
6. "Hold On, We're Going Home (feat. Majid Jordan)", Drake
7. "Get Lucky (feat. Pharrell Williams)," Daft Punk
8. "Cups (Pitch Perfect's "When I'm Gone") (Pop Version)," Anna Kendrick
9. "Safe and Sound," Capital Cities
10. "Same Love (feat. Mary Lambert)," Macklemore & Ryan Lewis

TOP ALBUMS
1. "The Civil Wars," The Civil Wars
2. "Night Visions," Imagine Dragons
3. "Magna Carta ... Holy Grail," JAY Z
4. "Crash My Party," Luke Bryan
5. "Teen Beach Movie (Soundtrack)," Various Artists
6. "Greater Than," Tye Tribbett
7. "Blurred Lines," Robin Thicke
8. "Yours Truly," Ariana Grande
9. "NOW That's What I Call Music, Vol. 47," Various Artists
10. "From Death To Destiny," Asking Alexandria

The top iPhone and iPad apps on App Store for the week ending Aug. 12, 2013:

TOP PAID IPHONE APPS
1. Words With Friends (Zynga Inc.)
2. Minecraft-Pocket Edition (Mojang)
3. Heads Up! (Warner Bros.)
4. AfterLight (Simon Filip)
5. Pixlgun 3D - Block World Pocket Survival Shooter with Skins Maker for minecraft (PC edition) & Multiplayer (Alex Krasnov)
6. Smart Alarm Clock: sleep cycles & noise recording (Plus Sports)
7. Pimp Your Screen (Apalon)
8. Where's My Mickey? (Disney)
9. Plants vs. Zombies (PopCap)
10. iTheme-Themes for iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch (novitap GmbH)

TOP FREE IPHONE APPS
1. 4 Pics 1 Song (Game Circus LLC)
2. Candy Crush Saga (King.com Limited)
3. Despicable Me: Minion Rush (Gameloft)
4. Rise Alarm Clock (Kellen Styler)
5. High School Story (Pixelberry Studios)
6. Vine (Vine Labs Inc.)
7. YouTube (Google Inc.)
8. Bad Piggies (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
9. Instagram (Burbn Inc.)
10. Snapchat (Snapchat Inc.)

TOP PAID IPAD APPS
1. Minecraft-Pocket Edition (Mojang)
2. Words With Friends HD (Zynga Inc.)
3. Plants vs. Zombies HD (PopCap)
4. Pages (Apple)
5. Notability (Ginger Labs)
6. Survivalcraft (Igor Kalicinski)
7. Gravity Falls Mystery Shack Attack (Disney)
8. Pixlgun 3D - Block World Pocket Survival Shooter with Skins Maker for minecraft (PC edition) & Multiplayer (Alex Krasnov)
9. Where's My Mickey? XL (Disney)
10. Doc McStuffins: Time For Your Check Up! (Disney)

TOP FREE IPAD APPS
1. Baby Home Adventure-Mommy's Little Helper (Kids Fun Club by TabTale)
2. Candy Crush Saga (King.com Limited)
3. Despicable Me: Minion Rush (Gameloft)
4. Bad Piggies HD (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
5. Amateur Surgeon 3 (adult swim)
6. Where's My Mickey? Free (Disney)
7. Hungry Shark Evolution (Future Games of London)
8. Appendix Surgery (laurent LOZANO)
9. High School Story (Pixelberry Studios)
10. YouTube (Google Inc.)

The top 10 books on Apple's iBooks for the week ending Aug. 12, 2013:

TOP BOOKS
1. "The Cuckoo's Calling," by Robert Galbraith & J.K. Rowling (Little, Brown & Company)
2. "Burn," by Maya Banks (Penguin Group US)
3. "Mistress," by James Patterson & David Ellis (Little, Brown and Company)
4. "High Heat: A Jack Reacher Novella," by Lee Child (Random House Publishing Group)
5. "City of Bones," by Cassandra Clare (Margaret K. McElderry Books)
6. "Inferno," by Dan Brown (Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group)
7. "The Husband's Secret," by Liane Moriarty (Penguin Group US)
8. "Choosing the Right Man," by Violet Duke (Violet Duke)
9. "Falling for the Good Guy," by Violet Duke (Violet Duke)
10. "Zealot," by Reza Aslan (Random House Publishing Group)

Chris Brown sued over recording studio altercation

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A man who claims he was punched and kicked by a member of Chris Brown's entourage during a fight at a recording studio sued the R&B singer on Tuesday for assault and battery.

Sha'keir Duarte sued Brown for unspecified damages in Los Angeles Superior Court, claiming he suffered a concussion as well as humiliation and mental anguish as a result of the attack.

Brown's attorney Mark Geragos called the case frivolous and said it amounted to an attempted shakedown.

"This is what gives lawyers and lawsuits a bad name is garbage like this," Geragos said, adding that he will seek to have the lawsuit dismissed and will countersue Duarte.

Duarte claims he was beaten by a member of Brown's entourage identified in the suit only as "Hood" during a fight over a parking spot.

The fight at Westlake Recording Studios erupted on Jan. 27 between the entourages of Brown and fellow singer Frank Ocean.

AP

In this Monday, July 15, 2013 file photo, Chris Brown arrives at the 8th Annual Bear Trap Entertainment All-Star Celebrity Kickoff Party at the Playboy Mansion in Los Angeles.

Brown taunted Duarte and threatened that the fight could escalate into a shooting, the lawsuit claims.

Charges were never pursued after Ocean, who said his finger was injured in the fight, stated online that he wouldn't seek criminal or civil penalties.

The fight started after Brown parked in Ocean's spot at the studio.

Miley Cyrus, Robin Thicke to perform at MTV VMAs

NEW YORK (AP)—Miley Cyrus and Robin Thicke will perform their summer anthems at the MTV Video Music Awards later this month.

MTV also announced a new award Tuesday called best song of the summer. Both Cyrus and Thicke are nominees. Cyrus' "We Can't Stop" and Thicke's "Blurred Lines" will compete with Daft Punk's "Get Lucky," Selena Gomez's "Come & Get It," One Direction's "Best Song Ever" and "I Need Your Love" by Calvin Harris and Ellie Goulding.

Cyrus and Thicke are now tied with Bruno Mars as the second most nominated act with four each. Justin Timberlake and Macklemore & Ryan Lewis lead with six apiece.

Lady Gaga, Katy Perry and Kanye West will also perform at the VMAs, to air live from the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Aug. 25.

Michelle Obama in hip-hop healthy eating video

VINEYARD HAVEN, Mass. (AP)—Michelle Obama is making a cameo appearance in a video for a hip-hop song recorded to encourage kids from minority groups to take care of their bodies.

The song, "Everybody," is one of 19 on an album called "Songs for a Healthier America," set for release next month. The album is being produced by Hip Hop Public Health and the Partnership for a Healthier America, both of which support the first lady's "Let's Move" anti-childhood obesity campaign. Statistics show higher rates of overweight and obesity among black and Latino children.

In the video, Mrs. Obama talks briefly about launching "Let's Move" and people's doubts about whether it will make a difference.

The song itself is sung by rapper Doug E. Fresh, along with Jordin Sparks, Dr. Oz and others.

Actresses urge support for Calif. paparazzi bill

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Actresses Halle Berry and Jennifer Garner urged California lawmakers Tuesday to support legislation that they say would help them better protect their children from the paparazzi that follow them daily.

The stars testified before the Assembly Judiciary Committee regarding SB606, which would impose tougher penalties on photographers who harass celebrities and their children.

It was Berry's second state Capitol appearance on the measure. The Academy Award-winning actress, who is pregnant, told lawmakers the constant presence of photographers yelling and snapping pictures has made her daughter scared to go to school.

"As mothers, as parents, we don't have the wherewithal or the law in place right now to protect them from this," Berry said. "What this bill would do is give us our rights back so that we can protect our children."

AP

Actress Halle Berry testifies before the Assembly Judiciary Committee in support of a bill that would limit the ability of paparazzi to photograph children of celebrities and public figures, Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2013 at the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif.

The bill from Sen. Kevin de Leon, D-Los Angeles, would change the definition of harassment to include photographing or recording a child without the permission of a legal guardian by following the child or guardian's activities or by lying in wait. It also increases the penalties for people convicted of such behavior.

The bill passed the panel without opposition and now heads to the Appropriations Committee.

Garner, who starred in the ABC series "Alias," nearly cried describing how paparazzi aggressively follow her and her three young children as she takes them to school and to the pediatrician.

She told the committee that she understood she would make certain sacrifices when she chose a career in acting but that her children have not made the same decision to be in the public spotlight.

"I don't want a gang of shouting, arguing, law-breaking photographers who camp out everywhere we are, all day, every day, to continue to traumatize my kids," Garner said.

Media organizations are concerned the bill will restrict journalists who are conducting legitimate newsgathering activities.

Joe Berry of the California Broadcasters Association said harassment is already illegal. The legislation "is overly broad and overly reaches in order to rein in these bad actors," he testified.

De Leon told the committee he believes pending amendments will satisfy some concerns about the bill.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Kiri Te Kanawa gives 'Downton' an operatic touch

LONDON (AP)—"Downton Abbey," the world's favorite country-house soap, is getting a dose of opera. Producers say soprano Kiri Te Kanawa will appear in the upcoming fourth season as real-life diva Nellie Melba. The New Zealand-born singer says "I couldn't say yes fast enough" to appearing in a show she loves—and enjoyed her time on set so much she named her new dog Abbey. Te Kanawa sang for journalists at a preview of the new season on Tuesday. In the new series, Melba—a huge star of the early 20th century—joins the aristocratic Grantham clan for a house party. The costume drama about the family and servants in an English stately home returns to British television this fall, and airs in the U.S. on PBS in January.

Reality star Allemand hospitalized in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The model and reality TV star girlfriend of NBA Pelicans player Ryan Anderson has been hospitalized in New Orleans. According to a statement from her publicist Tuesday, Gia Allemand, a former model and cast member of ABC's "The Bachelor" and "Bachelor Pad," was taken Monday night to University Hospital following "a serious emergency medical event." The details of the 29-year-old's condition were not immediately disclosed. But according to the statement, Allemand is listed in critical condition. The statement, issued by publicists for both Allemand and Anderson, says that Allemand's mother is with her daughter, along with Anderson.

Teacher looks for lesson in the etiquette of tipping

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a teacher, and at the end of the year I receive many gifts and notes of appreciation from the parents of my students. This year, one of my parents, a beautician, presented me with a gift certificate for a facial.

Last week I made the appointment and was given a fantastic facial by this mom. I didn't tip her afterward because I wasn't sure how to handle a gift like this.

Was I right in not tipping her? Since this was a gift from her, I'm hoping I didn't insult her by not offering one. If I was wrong, I'd like to go back and give her the tip she would have earned.

WONDERING TEACHER IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR TEACHER: Because the gift certificate came from the person who delivered the service to you, you did not insult her by not offering a gratuity. (In fact, had you offered one for her gift, it might have been taken the wrong way.) If the facialist who performed the service had been someone other than the mother, a tip would have been in order, but not in a case like this.

The proper way to convey your gratitude for her fantastic facial would be to write a short note telling her what a treat it was and how much you enjoyed her gift.

DEAR ABBY: My 14-year-old granddaughter, "Grace," has confided to me that she's smoking pot and drinking. When I asked her why, she said she does it to make herself feel better. I told her she has a serious problem, and something has to be done.

Grace doesn't want to tell her parents and, frankly, I think they would just yell and scream and not understand what's really going on. At this point, I don't know what to do. The person who's supplying my granddaughter is someone who is always around. I refuse to have that other girl in my home, but I can't tell Grace's parents why. What should I do?

IN A FIX IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR IN A FIX: You're correct that this is serious, and something does have to be done. Alcohol and weed are not the solutions to your granddaughter's problem. Self-medicating won't fix what's wrong and could make her problems worse.

Grace needs to be evaluated and diagnosed by a physician. The way to ensure that it happens is to talk to her parents about the fact that you're worried about her. If you make clear that Grace is getting stoned to "feel better" and not partying, they may be less inclined to react with anger.

DEAR ABBY: My 25-year-old grandson has a problem, and we don't know where to turn.

Through student loans he has managed to get degrees in chemical engineering and biology with good grades. The problem is, he can't interview. He freezes up and is afraid to face the interviewer. This means he is unemployable.

He has no assets or income and lives with his parents. His father is disabled and hasn't worked in years. Can you recommend any organizations, doctors or medications that can help him?

HOPEFUL IN MICHIGAN

DEAR HOPEFUL: Your grandson needs to discuss his problem with a psychotherapist who can help him overcome his disabling insecurity and perhaps prescribe a medication for his anxiety. There is a cure for his problem, and this is the quickest way to find it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

LET'S STROLL OVER THIS WAY ONCE AGAIN, HOBBES!
YES, LETS!
IT'S A GOOD THING YOU HAVE THAT TOP SECRET, CODED LETTER, HOBBES! IT WOULD BE AWFUL IF YOU HAPPENED TO DROP IT NEAR SUSIE ONE MORE TIME!
IF I WERE SUSIE, AND I FOUND THE LETTER, I'D PICK IT UP AND DECODE IT, SO I COULD RUIN ALL OUR PLANS! THAT WOULD SURE BE BAD FOR US!
IT WORKED! SHE'S OPENING THE LETTER!
GOOD. I WAS AFRAID WE'D HAVE TO HIT HER ON THE HEAD AND READ IT TO HER.

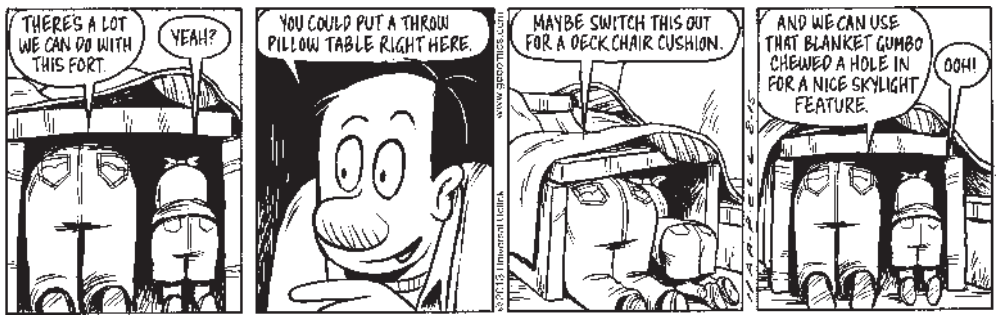
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

GARFIELD, GARFIELD, GARFIELD...
THAT'S MY NAME. DON'T WEAR IT OUT
HAVE YOU NO CONTROL?!
GIVE ME A SUBJECT
DID YOU ENJOY THE WAX FRUIT?!
CHEWY, TASTELESS, YET SATISFYING
JIM DAVIS 8-15

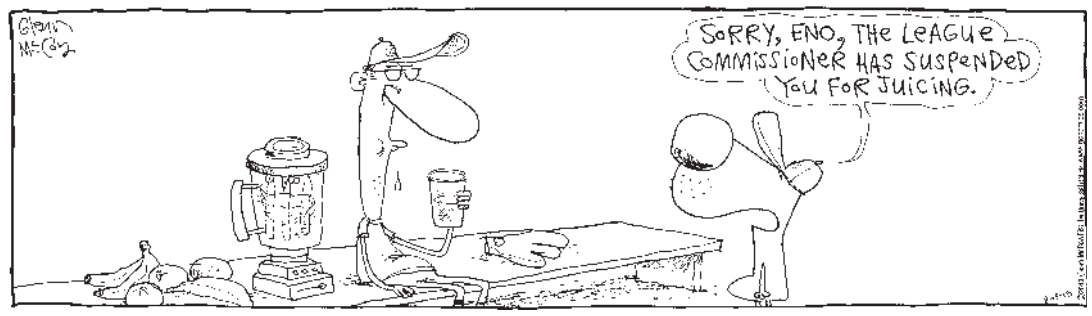
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THERE'S A LOT WE CAN DO WITH THIS FORT.
YEAH?
YOU COULD PUT A THROW PILLOW TABLE RIGHT HERE.
MAYBE SWITCH THIS OUT FOR A DECK CHAIR CUSHION.
AND WE CAN USE THAT BLANKET GUMBO CHEWED A HOLE IN FOR A NICE SKYLIGHT FEATURE.
OOH!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

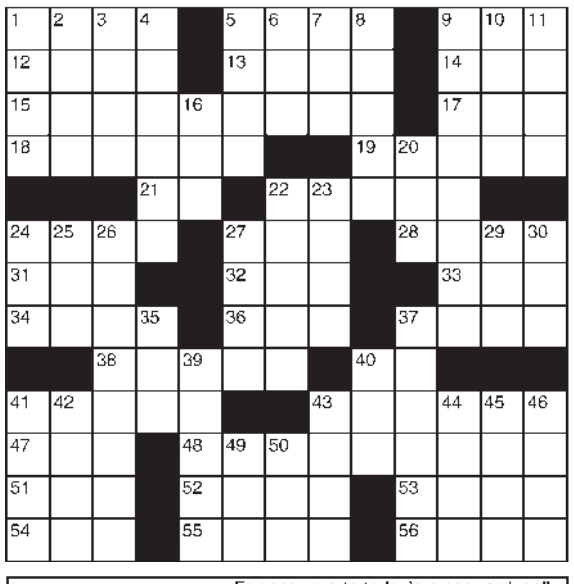
ACROSS
1 Doctrines
5 Sexy skirt feature
9 Chest protector?
12 Paper holder
13 Vow
14 Berlin's "What'll —?"
15 1912 follower of Teddy Roosevelt
17 Cariou of Broadway
18 Highway divider
19 Pass along
21 Empire St.
22 Wheat bundle
24 Credit card result
27 Tarzan's son
28 Judicial garb
31 Gardner of Hollywood
32 Once around the track
33 Writer Buscaglia
34 Clobber
36 Gorilla
37 Yemeni port
38 Anteroom
40 Alternatively
41 Chain reaction pioneer
43 Wayward
47 Tokyo's old name
48 Quasimodo's place
51 Past
52 Welsh emblem
53 Sported
54 Sleep acronym
55 — out (supplements)
56 Blackthorn fruit

DOWN
1 Cold War weapon, for short
2 Pivot
3 Not too spicy
4 Aid for a broken arm
5 Any time now
6 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
7 "Monty Python" opener
8 Yonder
9 Wallet
10 Notion
11 Skeletal
16 Kentucky Derby time
20 Canal zone?
22 Lathered up
23 Overblown promotion
24 Slight touch
25 Previous night
26 Cotillion site
27 Spill the beans
29 Spelldown
30 A billion years
35 Huck's pal
37 Quiver contents
39 Holy book
40 Scrap
41 Dread
42 Advantage
43 BPOE members
44 MPs' quarry
45 Pianist Peter
46 Genealogy chart
49 "A mouse!"
50 Grant's foe

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	L	O	T	■	B	I	B	■	P	I	T	A
M	I	D	I	■	O	V	A	■	A	N	A	G
I	N	D	E	B	T	E	D	■	I	D	L	E
R	F	S	U	I	T	■	F	N	S	U	F	S
■	■	■	P	A	L	■	R	O	L	L	■	■
S	R	I	■	H	E	X	■	B	E	G	E	T
A	I	N	T	■	D	I	P	■	Y	E	A	R
M	O	D	E	M	■	I	L	K	■	D	R	Y
■	■	I	N	A	S	■	A	I	D	■	■	■
O	C	C	U	L	I	■	U	N	U	S	E	D
G	O	T	O	■	I	N	D	E	N	T	E	D
L	I	E	U	■	L	E	I	■	C	O	L	A
E	N	D	S	■	L	E	T	■	E	A	S	Y

Yesterday's answer 8-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jennifer Lawrence, 23; Joe Jonas, 24; Carl Edwards, 34; Ben Affleck, 41.

Happy Birthday: Lean toward the new and look for promising opportunities that will allow you to express your talents fully. Address domestic situations honestly. Relationships should be questioned if things do not feel right. Let your intuitive intelligence lead the way, and be open to suggestions and changes that will ease your stress and push you in a positive direction. Your numbers are 3, 12, 22, 28, 31, 39, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Make travel plans or get involved in an event you can enjoy with a friend, lover or family. Speak up and share your concerns, and you can make a difference. Take action and present what you have to offer. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Avoid disagreements. Put your energy into picking up valuable information or visiting a place that brings you peace and joy. Play by the rules and stick to what you know best. A control issue is likely to lead to regret. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Emotional deception is apparent when it comes to professional matters or protecting your reputation. Choose your words wisely and don't mislead anyone. Your motives must be honorable and geared toward improving your status, position and goals. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Improve your surroundings or deal with an issue that is bothering you. It's important to be up-front and fix whatever needs to be dealt with to help find a compromise with someone who may be bothering you. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Listen carefully and do what's expected of you. Avoid any trouble that can eat up your fun time or stand between you and something you want to pursue. Added responsibility is apparent and should be handled swiftly and without complaint. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Be open to suggestions, and it will be easier to adapt to whatever is going on around you. Don't let an emotional situation throw you off guard or create a personal problem that deters your productivity. Use your creative imagination and offer help. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Protect your home, family, position and reputation. Do what you can to make improvements instead of becoming part of the problem. Embrace change and be passionate about your concerns. Visit destinations that offer something in return. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Concentrate on your future and the knowledge and skills you will need to reach your financial goals. You have plenty to offer and should be able to parlay what you are good at doing into something that can bring you monetary rewards. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Share your experience, thoughts and future plans, and you will be able to better collaborate with those closest to you. Express your emotions openly and spend time pursuing the people, places and pastimes that please you. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Inspect what's being offered carefully before deciding to make a change that affects those around you. Look at what's being offered and how you can get the most out of any situation by using your talent and connections. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Consider your options and strike up a conversation with someone you respect and feel can give you an honest assessment of the situation you face. Good things will happen if you make changes that are better suited to the current economic climate. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Get ready to make a move or an investment. A partnership appears to be the deciding factor in the choices you face and can help you cover more ground personally or professionally than what you would be able to do on your own. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a doer and an entrepreneur. You are exciting and unpredictable.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			1		8			
		9		5		4		
	3						1	
6			8		1			2
	4						3	
8			7		4			9
	2						6	
		8		9		1		
			5		7			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	4	8	7	9	6	5	2	3
5	9	2	3	8	1	7	4	6
6	3	7	4	5	2	8	9	1
4	8	3	1	2	9	6	5	7
7	5	9	6	3	4	1	8	2
2	1	6	5	7	8	9	3	4
8	6	1	2	4	5	3	7	9
3	2	5	9	6	7	4	1	8
9	7	4	8	1	3	2	6	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/14

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DIFFERENT-COLORED EYES **Solution: 9 letters**

P	A	E	I	N	T	Y	A	B	S	O	R	B	S	L
A	I	G	Y	B	L	U	E	R	U	S	S	E	T	O
S	M	G	R	E	E	N	R	L	N	K	H	E	N	O
C	O	B	M	A	S	S	R	B	L	I	N	K	I	C
I	R	L	E	E	Y	S	I	R	I	O	G	I	T	I
P	H	I	I	R	N	S	R	S	G	D	W	O	P	T
Y	C	P	C	D	I	T	T	E	H	B	A	I	D	E
T	O	U	A	L	N	R	A	O	T	A	R	R	D	N
O	R	P	T	O	A	U	M	T	P	I	D	O	K	E
N	E	A	S	G	L	C	O	R	I	S	N	Ⓔ	W	G
E	T	I	I	K	E	T	R	O	Y	O	Ⓤ	A	S	N
H	E	T	C	T	M	U	T	L	E	Ⓗ	N	D	N	A
P	H	A	Z	E	L	R	S	O	N	C	L	E	A	R
E	L	A	O	C	R	A	H	C	O	P	P	E	R	O
B	D	R	I	P	P	L	E	S	H	A	D	O	W	S

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Absorb, Amber, Black, Blink, Blue, Brown, Cats, Charcoal, Clear, Color, Cool, Copper, Dark, DNA, Dog, Eyes, Genetic, Gold, Gray, Green, Hazel, Heterochromia, Honey, Hue, Iris, Mass, Melanin, Orange, Phenotypic, Pigmentation, Pink, Pupil, Retina, Ripples, Russet, Shades, Shadows, Solid, Spots, Stroma, Structural, Sunlight, Tints, Trait, Turbid, Wide, Yellow

Yesterday's Answer: Hawaiian

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, volumes 30 and 31 call 1-800-642-6480. Order on line at wonderword.universaluclick.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(3) Teacher - Salary $5.75p/h. 3-4 yrs experience required. Call St. Joseph Catholic School at 433-7527.

(1) Teacher Aide - Salary $5.75p/h. 3-4 yrs experience required. Call St. Joseph Catholic School at 433-7527.

---

5 - Waiter / Waitress $5.55/hr and 2 - Network & Computer Systems Administrator $10/hr. Call MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. Tel. # 989-0917

---

1 - Radiology Technologist (Mammography), $18.50/hr. Call Precision Medical Imaging, LLC Tel#233-4582

---

(1) General Maintenance – Salary $5.55p/h. 1 years experience required. Call Habibur Rahman/ Rahman Enterprise at 285-2504.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Job Vacancy Announcements
US Eligible workers ONLY

(1) Metal & Plastic Fabrication & Finishing Worker – previous 3 years work-related skill, knowledge & experience is required.

send current resume to scsinc.hr@gmail.com
Or submit at Saipan Computer Services, Beach Road, Garapan
Mondays – Fridays 9:30am-11:30am and 2:00pm-4:00pm

Saipan Computer Services, Inc.
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE
Submit applications no later than August 21, 2013.

Medpharm has an opening for:

One (1) Biomedical Equipment Technician
Minimum qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Electronic Engineering (may be foreign equivalent) and two (2) years experience in job position or as a Biomedical Field Service Engineer.
Duties: Performs installation and commissioning of the biomedical equipment sold by the company to ensure compliance with all technical requirements and testing profiles for the equipment taking into consideration such factors as layout specifications, electrical load requirements, minimum and maximum output parameters, and installation safety requirements. Provides end-user training sessions for the various features, proper operation, and operational safety requirements for the biomedical equipment. Provides after-sales servicing, preventative maintenance, and repair for the biomedical equipment to ensure continued conformance to performance standards, proper operational function, and compliance with safety requirements. Disassembles malfunctioning equipment and removes, repairs and replaces defective parts. Tests and calibrates components and equipment following manufacturers' specifications and troubleshooting techniques. Keeps records of maintenance, repair, and required updates of equipment.

If interested, send resume to Medpharm by email to sally.cacdac@medpharmusa.net or by fax at 671-632-9000. Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within one (1) week of acceptance to hire.

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

SALES REPRESENTATIVE - HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

A minimum of 3 years work related experience required with a successful sales record. Ideally with an Associate's Degree in Sales & Marketing plus experience in F&B/restaurant operations and menu preparation. Proficient in MS Excel, Word, Outlook. Ability to speak Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese or Korean language will be an advantage. Must have a valid driver's license and a clean driving record. Availability to work evenings, holidays and weekends is also required.

Interested applicants must have their own reliable transportation. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Interested applicants must submit their application and/or resume at our Saipan office located in the C.T.S.I. Building, Lower Base, by August 23rd, 2013. Applications may also be sent to: mpk@dandq-international.com. The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.

D&Q is an equal opportunity employer and has a drug free work environment. Pre-employment and random drug testing may be required.

Full time position available for our Saipan branch. Applicant must have good knowledge of personal computers. Position involves installing software, diagnosing common problems and also includes customer service. We can train the right applicant!

DIAL Rent-to-Own

234-7368

Plenty of Benefits!
- ✓ Paid Vacations
- ✓ Paid Holidays
- ✓ Paid Sick Leave
- ✓ Salary based on experience

Computer Tech

Requirements:
- US permanent resident
- Must be able to lift 50 lbs
- Friendly and self-motivated
- Excellent communication skills
- Dependable transportation

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Opening Date: August 15, 2013 **Closing Date:** August 30, 2013

POSITION: Housing Inspector/Housing Preservation Technician I

STARTING PL 26/01 to PL 26/04 ($18,584.42 to $21,506.00 per annum)
The starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.

Location of Job Vacancy: Program & Housing Division
NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, August 30, 2013, **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than August 30, 2013, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Century Tours, Inc. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to fill the following positions:

Reservation Supervisor (01)
Job Duties: Assists in managing all staff in the Reservations Department to ensure the highest standard of performance from the team. Manages all reservations and ensures that it meets requirement. Deal with all related administration and establish a close working relationship with all colleagues to ensure guest's expectations are met. Provide training and development for employees in reservation, sales techniques, company policy and procedures, and revenue management. Ensure knowledge of product, client relationships and services is maintained and communicated to all relevant personnel. Maintain effective working relationships with clients. Develop strong working relationships with all customers in order to maximize sales opportunities and generate business for the future. Works closely with Reservation Manager & other Department managers to maximize occupancy of rooms and meetings, rates, yield and average spending by implementing appropriate training and communication systems. Also evaluates sales performance and product on a regular basis in order to recognize challenges for the future. Actively seek all sales and revenue opportunities both internal and external to increase the profile of company. Ensure that billing and credit agreements are managed and controlled. Should be flexible and adaptable according to business/project adjustment. Responsible for required reports and maintaining records. Other duties as assigned.
Requirements: High school diploma and College Majors in Tourism and Travel Services Management is preferred. Previous 3-5 years work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is required. Has high attention to details. Creative and able to work with a team. Good command of computer skills (such as Microsoft Office) and internet applications. Has good negotiation and communication skills. Able to solve problems. Has public relations skills and is able to deal with emergencies. English and Chinese speaker preferred.

Cashier (01)
Job Duties: Receiving cash and checks and issuing receipt vouchers. Processes credit card payments. Collects batches by receiving checks. Delivers daily batches to accounting. Records the receipts in the cashbook on daily basis. Issues daily reports and cash counts to financial manager. Delivers checks to vendors. Handles the disbursement function. Deposits checks and hands vouchers to accounting daily. Reconciles funds and handles petty cash. Uses cashbook on daily basis. Work closely with vendors in regards to inquiries, concerns or check pick-up. Attend events such as luncheons, breakfasts and committees to collect the entrance fees. Reconciles the checkbooks. Other duties as assigned.
Requirements: High school diploma and above level certificate is preferred. Previous at least 1 year work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is required. Has high attention to details. Able to work with a team. Good knowledge of computer skills (such as Microsoft Office) and internet applications. Has good negotiation and communication skills. English and Chinese speaker preferred.

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Soriano homers twice, Yanks offense breaks out

NEW YORK (AP)—Alfonso Soriano homered twice and drove in a career-high six runs, Alex Rodriguez had a two-run double, and the New York Yankees' bats bailed out a wild CC Sabathia for a 14-7 rout of the Los Angeles Angels on Tuesday night.

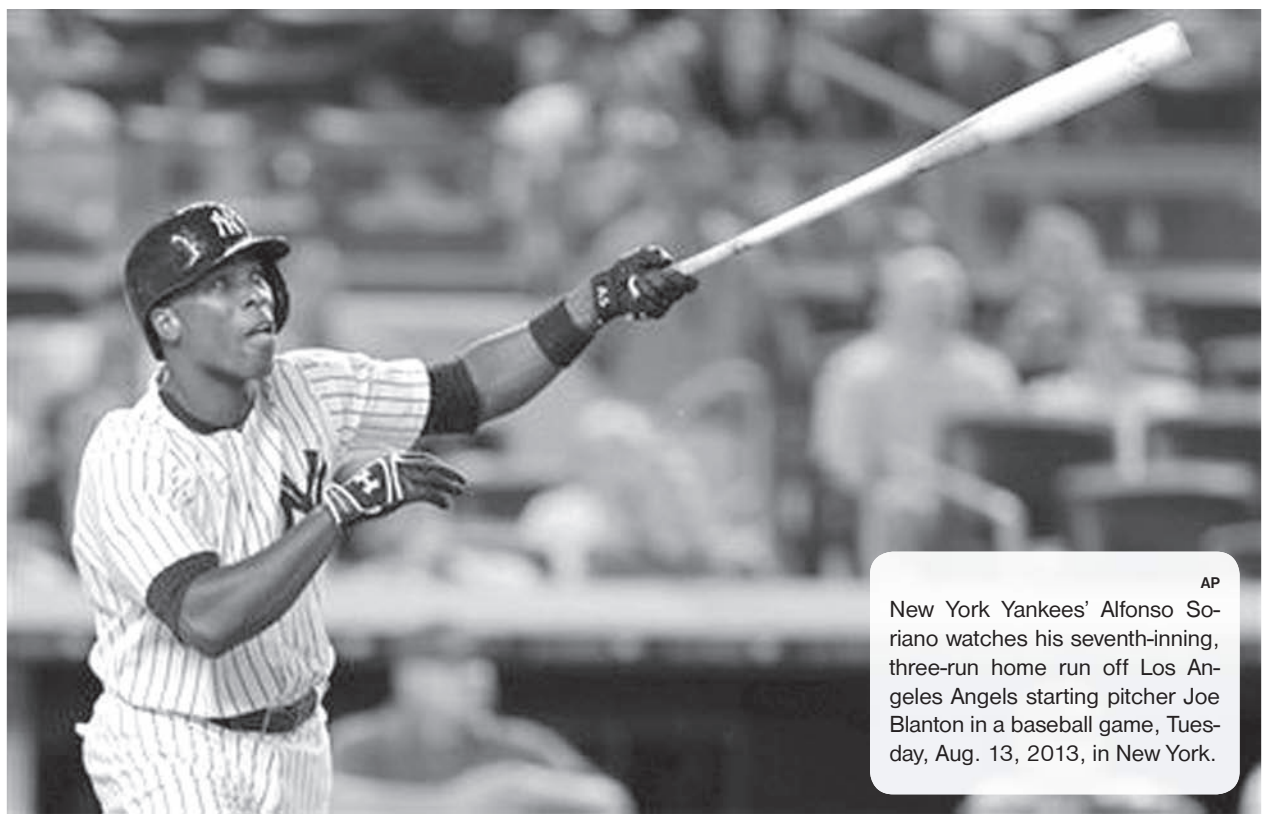
Vernon Wells homered against his former team, and leadoff batter Eduardo Nunez drove in four runs as New York equaled its highest run total of the season. The second-worst run-producing offense in the AL won by more than three runs for the first time in 26 games.

Jason Vargas (6-5) gave up two homers in his first start since having surgery to remove a blood clot from near his left armpit on June 26, including Soriano's go-ahead two-run drive in the fifth.

Soriano singled in a run in the Yankees' four-run sixth that broke open a sloppy game, and hit a three-run shot off Joe Blanton in the seventh.

The Yankees had a season-best 19 hits.

Sabathia (10-10) allowed three runs in six-plus laborious innings to reach 10 wins for the 13th time in a 13-year career.



AP

New York Yankees' Alfonso Soriano watches his seventh-inning, three-run home run off Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher Joe Blanton in a baseball game, Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2013, in New York.

Red Sox 4, Blue Jays 2, 11 innings

In Toronto, Shane Victorino hit a two-run single in the 11th inning and Boston won for the ninth time in its last 13 games at Rogers Centre.

Jarrod Saltalamacchia drew a one-out walk off Aaron Loup (4-5) and Will Middlebrooks followed with a single. Jacoby Ellsbury grounded into a fielder's choice, with Middlebrooks forced at second and Saltalamacchia advancing to third.

Ellsbury stole second before Victorino grounded a two-run single up the middle.

Koji Uehara (3-0) worked 1 1-3 innings for the victory.

The Blue Jays tied it in the bottom of the eighth when J.P. Arencibia hit a leadoff home run.

White Sox 4, Tigers 3, 11 innings

In Chicago, Alejandro De Aza singled in the winning run with the bases loaded in the 11th inning to lift Chicago to a win over Detroit.

Avisail Garcia had two hits against his former team, drove in two runs and scored two, including the winner. The White Sox handed the AL Central leaders their fourth loss in five games.

The winning rally started when Jeremy Bonderman (2-4) walked Garcia leading off and threw high to second after fielding Jeff Keppinger's bunt. Then he walked Tyler Flowers to load the bases.

Phil Coke came in and De Aza lined a single to right. That made a winner of Addison Reed (5-1), who worked two scoreless innings.

Mariners 5, Rays 4

In St. Petersburgh, Fla., leadoff hitter Brad Miller homered twice to help Seattle send Tampa Bay to its sixth straight loss.

Tampa Bay also got two homers from its leadoff hitter, Ben Zobrist.

After Justin Smoak ended Chris Archer's (6-5) night with a leadoff single in the sixth, Dustin Ackley gave Seattle a 5-4 lead on a triple off Wesley Wright.

Zobrist got the Rays even at 4 on his second homer of the game, a two-run shot in the fifth against Erasmo Ramirez (4-0), who allowed four runs and seven hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Danny Farquhar pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

Indians 5, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Zach McAllister won for the first time in almost three months, Ryan Raburn homered and Cleveland beat Minnesota for only its second win in the last nine games.

McAllister (5-7) bounced back and held Minnesota to one earned run and four hits in six innings. He struck out seven in his first win since May 23.

Josh Willingham homered in the second, Minnesota's 23rd straight run from a home run.

The Indians led 3-1 in the sixth when Samuel Deduno (7-6) hit Carlos Santana in the toe with a pitch. Plate umpire Adam Hamari initially ruled that Deduno's pitch didn't hit him, but awarded Santana first base after conferring with the crew. Rayburn then homered to left-center.

Astros 5, Athletics 4

In Oakland, Calif., Jordan Lyles pitched seven innings for his first win in nearly two months, Brandon Barnes doubled twice and drove in two runs, and Houston beat Oakland to snap a six-game losing streak.

Juan Castro singled in the fifth to extend his hitting streak to a career-high 11 games, scored a run and added a sacrifice fly for Houston. Matt Dominguez added two hits, including one of four doubles off A's starter Bartolo Colon, who lost in his second bid to become the first pitcher in major league history to win 15 games in a season with four American League teams.

Yoenis Cespedes singled, doubled and homered for Oakland, which nearly won the game on Chris Young's long foul ball that was reviewed, but missed a chance to move percentage points ahead of Texas in the AL West.

The Astros had dropped 11 of the first 12 games this season between the division rivals before knocking Colon (14-5) out of the game early and holding off a late rally.

Colon, who had defeated Houston three times already this season, gave up five runs and seven hits in four innings with one walk and three strikeouts.

Lyles (5-6) gave up five hits, allowed only one runner past second base and got Oakland to ground into two double plays.

Brewers 5, Rangers 1

In Arlington, Texas, scooter Gennett homered twice, Marco Estrada worked six solid innings and Milwaukee ended Texas' eight-game winning streak.

Khris Davis also homered for the Brewers. His solo shot in the seventh ricocheted high off the left-field pole and chased Alexi Ogando (5-4).

Estrada (5-4) allowed one run and four hits against AL West-leading Texas, which was coming off its first 9-1 trip in team history.

Jim Henderson, the fourth Brewers pitcher, came on to retire Ian Kinsler on an inning-ending soft liner with the bases loaded in the eighth. The right-hander also worked the ninth for his 17th save.

Marlins 1, Royals 0, 10 innings

In Kansas City, Mo., Christian Yelich singled home the go-ahead run with one out in the 10th inning and Miami beat Kansas City after a tidy matchup of contrasting starters.

Hard-throwing Marlins prodigy Jose Fernandez and wily Royals veteran Bruce Chen each lasted seven innings before handing the scoreless game over to their bullpens.

It continued to extra innings before Kansas City reliever Kelvin Herrera (4-6) brushed the jersey of the Marlins' Jake Marisnick with a pitch in the 10th. Marisnick stole second and then scored on Yelich's single through the right side of the infield, his third hit of the game.

Chad Qualls (3-1) earned the win for Miami, while Steve Cishek got his 25th save.

Dodgers 4, Mets 2

In Los Angeles, Rookie Hyun-Jin Ryu outdueled Matt Harvey, and Nick Punto and A.J. Ellis drove in two runs apiece, helping the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the New York Mets for their first seven-game winning streak in more than three years.

The Dodgers improved to 39-8 since June 22, becoming the first NL team with such a run since the New York Giants from Aug. 12-Oct. 3, 1951. Their winning streak is the franchise's longest since taking nine straight from May 9-18, 2010.

Ryu (12-3) allowed one run and five hits in six innings, struck out three and walked one. He left-hander is unbeaten in seven starts since July 5, going 6-0 during his career-high winning streak.

Kenley Jansen pitched the ninth to earn his 19th save in 22 chances.

Punto's RBI double scored the tying and go-ahead runs in the fifth off Harvey (9-4).

Harvey gave up four runs and eight hits in six innings, struck out three and walked two. He hadn't allowed an earned run in three of his previous four starts while going 2-1 with a 0.91 ERA in that stretch.

The Mets have lost eight of nine to the Dodgers.

Braves 3, Phillies 1

In Atlanta, Kris Medlen won his fourth straight start, Chris Johnson hit a two-run home run, and Atlanta beat Philadelphia.

Medlen (10-10) appeared to be in danger of being sent to the bullpen one month ago, now his spot in the rotation appears secure. He left after walking Erik Kratz to open the eighth, getting a standing ovation after allowing one run and five hits in seven innings.

Craig Kimbrel earned his 37th save.

Chase Utley had three hits for Philadelphia, including a one-out single off Kimbrel in the ninth. Kimbrel struck out Domonic Brown and ended the game on Darin Ruf's popup to first baseman Freddie Freeman.

Johnson gave Atlanta a 3-0 lead in the third inning with his homer off rookie Ethan Martin (1-2). Johnson leads the National League with his .337 batting average.

There was a moment of silence before the game in honor of Braves fan Ronald Lee Homer Jr. of Conyers, Ga., who died after falling 85 feet from the stadium to a parking lot during Monday night's game.

Cardinals 4, Pirates 3, 14 innings

In St. Louis, Adron Chambers singled home the winning run in the 14th inning as St. Louis outlasted Pittsburgh and cut into the Pirates' NL Central lead.

Sam Freeman (1-0) allowed a walk in a scoreless 14th for the Cardinals, who saddled the Pirates with their fourth straight loss and pulled within two games of them with a win in the 4-hour, 55-minute game.

Pittsburgh had four hits the first time through the order against Adam Wainwright and led 3-0 after two innings on homers by Andrew McCutchen and Jordy Mercer. They had six hits the rest of the way.

Jon Jay singled off Jared Hughes (2-3) with one out in the 14th with his fourth hit. Jay stole second and then raced home and beat left fielder Starling Marte's throw.

Diamondbacks 4, Orioles 3, 11 innings

In Phoenix, Paul Goldschmidt hit the first pitch of the 11th inning for a game-ending home run after leading off the ninth with a tying homer, helping Arizona beat Baltimore with a walk off blast for the second straight night.

Arizona won the series opener on Monday when Adam Eaton hit the first pitch of the ninth inning into the pool in right field.

Goldschmidt matched him with his second game-ending homer of the homestand, lifting the first pitch by T.J. McFarland (1-1) just over the wall in right for his 29th homer and Arizona's 25th win in its last at-bat.

Nationals 4, Giants 2

In Washington, Adam LaRoche hit a two-run home run in the sixth inning to help lift Washington over San Francisco.

The Nationals won their fourth in a row on a night when neither starting pitcher returned after a thunderstorm caused a 1:17 rain delay.

Washington starter Gio Gonzalez threw four shutout innings. Giants ace Madison Bumgarner allowed just one run on an infield ground out in four innings.

LaRoche sent a 1-0 pitch from Guillermo Moscoso (1-1) off the facing of the second deck above the Nationals bullpen in right field. That came after a leadoff single by Ian Desmond and broke a 1-1 tie.

Padres 7, Rockies 5

In Denver, Nick Hundley homered and drove in two runs, Will Venable had three hits, and San Diego rallied to beat Colorado.

Jedd Gyorko also went deep for the second straight night for the Padres, who rebounded from a 14-2 loss to the Rockies on Monday.

San Diego beat the Rockies for just the fourth time in 15 games this season.

Charlie Culberson had two hits and two RBIs, and Nolan Arenado and DJ LeMahieu also had two hits each for Colorado, which had its four-game winning streak snapped.

Reds 6, Cubs 4, 11 innings

In Chicago, Shin-Soo Choo hit a tie-breaking two-run single in the 11th inning and J.J. Hoover provided terrific relief work on his 26th birthday, helping Cincinnati beat the Chicago Cubs.

With no outs and the bases loaded, Choo jumped on the first pitch he got from Eduardo Sanchez (0-1) and lined it into the gap in right-center. Ryan Ludwick and Devin Mesoraco scored.

Nate Schierholtz, Dioner Navarro and Murphy homered for Chicago, which was shut out in each of its previous three home games. Schierholtz's two-run drive in the second snapped a franchise record home scoreless stretch at 33 innings.

RG3 once more: 'no conflict' with Redskins coach

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Robert Griffin III took another shot at explaining his relationship with Mike Shanahan on Tuesday, making a surprise appearance in the Washington Redskins media room to proclaim that "there is no conflict" between quarterback and coach.

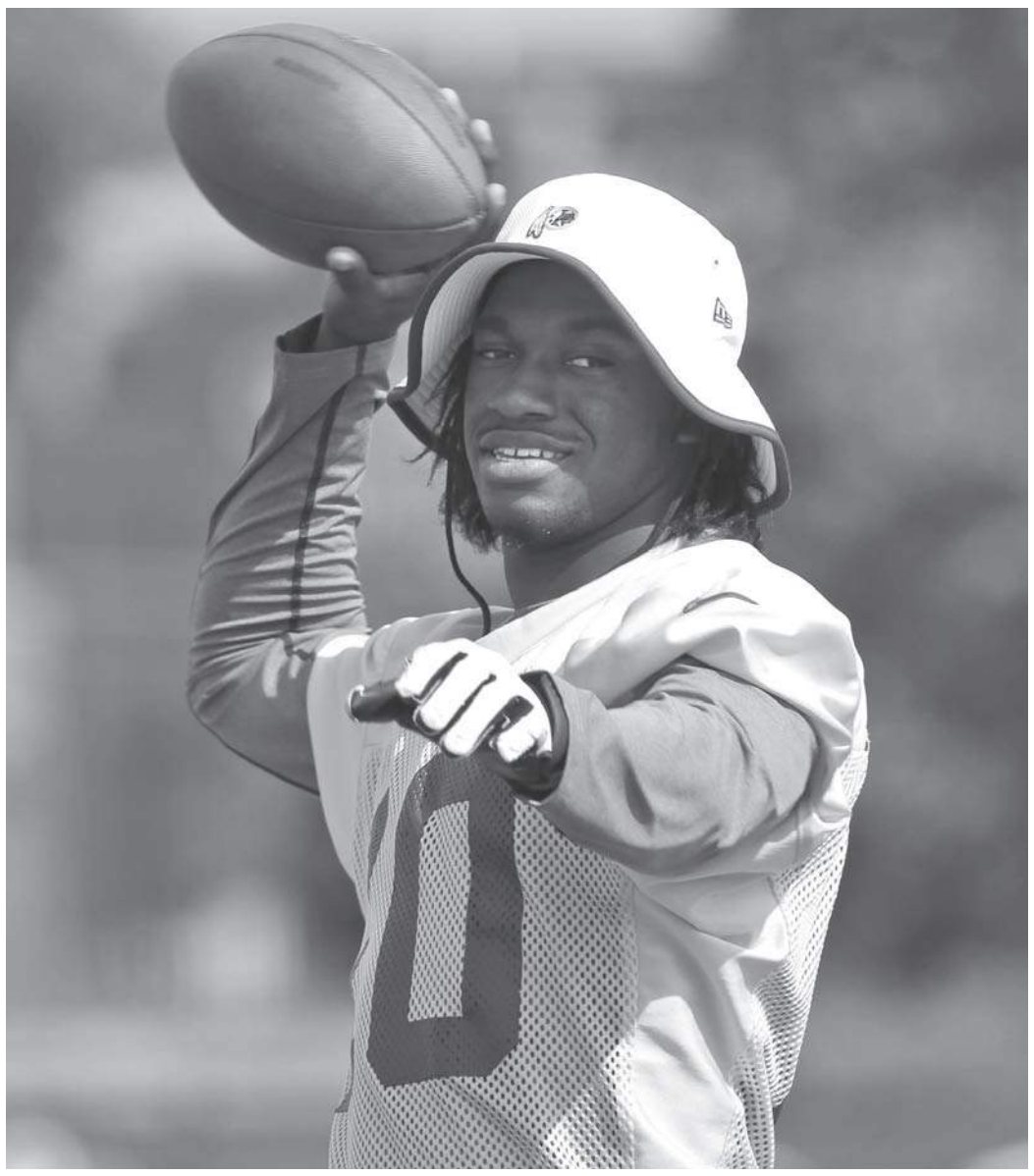
"Just want everybody to know if there's any questions about if there's a rift between me and Coach, or if there's a conflict, there is no conflict," Griffin said. "Coaches coach. I'm the player. Coach has a plan, and I'm abiding by that plan. I'm doing everything the coaches are asking me to do. I trust those guys. They want me to have a long career. And that's what part of this plan is about."

Griffin said comments he made during his weekly news conference on Monday have been misinterpreted. Griffin said Monday that he didn't like his restrictive practice plan and didn't completely understand Shanahan's reasoning behind it.

"Yesterday I voiced my opinion about it because I was asked about it, and that's been twisted and turned and tried to put against his team," Griffin said. "And that's not what we want."

Griffin has been limited to 7-on-7 drills as he returns from reconstructive surgery on his right knee. He has been publicly lobbying to do more, saying on Monday that he's "dang near close to 100 percent." He also wants to play in a preseason game, an idea vetoed by Shanahan.

Griffin is scheduled to take his first 11-on-11 snaps Wednesday, albeit on a limited basis.



AP

Washington Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III (10) tosses the ball during the morning practice at the NFL football teams training camp in Richmond, Va. Tuesday, July 30, 2013.

Griffin spoke for 66 seconds Tuesday and took no questions. He finished with a smile and said: "I'm excited about tomorrow."

The to-and-fro between Griffin and Shanahan has become the weekly highlight of camp. Griffin makes his case in front of the microphones, then Shanahan appears a few hours later and reminds everyone that the coach is the one in charge.

Asked Tuesday about the dynamic of having a franchise player who publicly disagrees with him, Shanahan referenced his relationship with John Elway when both were with the Denver Broncos.

"Robert is an energetic guy who wants to play. He shared with you how bad he wants to play," Shanahan said. "I do talk to Robert. I talk to him about different ways that I think that you can lead or different ways to handle different situations. I will throughout the year, but it doesn't change a person's personality.

"Me and John Elway used to have knock-down, drag-out fights all the time. And that's part of being a competitor, and that's another reason you have great relationships with your quarterbacks."

The saga continues Wednesday. Asked how many 11-on-11 snaps Griffin will get, Shanahan smiled.

"I'm going to try to keep this very exciting for everybody so you guys can count the reps," Shanahan said. "We've got a plan. Each week will be a little bit different, and we'll see how the plan goes. Once I share the plan with you, if I do change it, then all of a sudden the world starts tumbling down. I don't need it on SportsCenter every time he takes a rep."

Little League to introduce drug education program

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (AP)—Little League Baseball plans to introduce an educational program for coaches and volunteers intended to raise awareness about the use and dangers of performance-enhancing drugs among young players.

Working with the Taylor Hooton Foundation, Little League hopes to have an online program ready for the 2014 season. The youth sports organization had been in discussions with the foundation for more than a year about such a program, well before Major League Baseball announced suspensions recently for more than a dozen players following a lengthy investigation into a Florida anti-aging clinic accused of distributing PEDs.

The most recent batch of suspensions handed down Aug. 5 came less than two weeks before the start of the Little League World Series, which is scheduled to begin Thursday. Thousands of coaches, along with young players and their families are expected to visit South Williamsport during the 11-day tournament, and foundation president Don Hooton plans to attend, too, to spread his awareness message in person.

"This is a teachable moment. Ever parent, every coach should take the opportunity of all these suspensions to sit down and talk to your kids about why they shouldn't be involved in performance-enhancing drugs," Hooton said in a recent phone interview.

His 17-year-old son Taylor—a cousin of former big league pitcher Burt Hooton—committed suicide in July 2003. Doctors attributed Taylor's behavior to depression that occurred when he stopped using performance-enhancing drugs.

More than 2.4 million boys and girls play Little League baseball and softball, according to the organization that also has roughly 1 million volunteers.

The Hooton Foundation works with Major League Baseball, as well as local athletic leagues. A program with Little League would give the foundation an even broader audience.

"We are extraordinarily excited about this," he said. "As much work as we've done over the past 10 years, this offers the largest single audience to our message, to reach out at one time."

Citing various studies, Hooton has estimated 1 million to 1.5 million adolescents in the United States have used steroids.

A separate study released in May jointly commissioned by the foundation, the Baseball Hall of Fame and the Professional Baseball Athletic Trainers Society said that American adults ranked steroid use among adolescents as less of a problem than alcohol, bullying, marijuana and sexually transmitted diseases.

The survey of 1,002 adults conducted by The Gallup Organization last fall found that 97 percent of the respondents believed steroids caused negative health effects, while just 19 percent thought steroid use was a big problem among high school students. The study developed by University of Massachusetts researchers had a margin of error of 4.3 percent.

Little League President Stephen Keener said the recent surveys helped stir interest.

"What was discovered ... was a huge amount of ignorance on the subject among parents and even coaches at the high school level and below," Keener said. "As an organization that is interested in the development of children beyond the game ... perhaps we have some obligation to educate parents and Little League coaches."

The key, Keener said, is telling the truth to children if they have questions about the discipline announced for players including Milwaukee Brewers star slugger Ryan Braun.

Young players should be told that what was done "is wrong and here are the consequences of it. You are seeing highly visible, high-profile baseball players jeopardize their own health and paying a huge price from their livelihoods and how they are perceived publicly."

The Little League World Series begins with an opening ceremony Thursday before Panama and Puerto Rico play the first game of the 2013 tournament.

In memo, union tells NFL players HGH testing close

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

The NFL Players Association "tentatively agreed" to let the league take 40 blood samples for HGH tests each week during the season, with a positive result drawing a four-game suspension, according to a memo the union sent players.

A copy of the NFLPA's email, written in a question-and-answer format, was obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press.

The memo says "a computer program will randomly select" five players apiece from eight teams each week to take the blood tests.

First, though, every player participating in NFL training camps this year will provide a blood sample and information about "height, weight, age, and race/ethnicity" for a "population study" to determine what level of HGH will result in penalties, the union wrote.

The NFLPA's letter says that if more than 5 percent of all training camp samples are above that threshold, players who fail will have "reasonable cause" testing during the next two seasons - meaning they'll be subject to additional testing. A player testing positive again during the 2013-14 or 2014-15 seasons will get an eight-game suspension. A player without another positive result in that time will be removed from the extra testing program.

Tuesday's email to players indicates the union has signed off on various aspects of the HGH program and says owners and players "will likely finalize soon" the in-season weekly testing. But the memo does not make clear what exactly the NFL has agreed to at this point or give specifics about what stands in the way of a final accord.

No date has been set for the start of testing, because there are still issues that need to be negotiated between the NFL and union, including whether the commissioner or a neutral arbitrator will handle certain types of appeals of discipline.

League spokesman Brian McCarthy declined to comment on any specifics in the NFLPA memo, writing in an email to the AP: "We do not have yet a comprehensive agreement for HGH testing."

The league and the union originally paved the way for testing in the 10-year collective bargaining agreement they signed in August 2011, but two complete NFL seasons have come and gone - and a third is right around the corner—without a single HGH test being administered on a player.

During the two years since, the sides have haggled over various elements, including details of the appeals process and the union's insistence on a population study to determine what is a naturally occurring amount of HGH in NFL players.

HGH is a banned performance-enhancing drug that is hard to detect and has been linked to health problems such as diabetes, cardiac dysfunction and arthritis.

In January, shortly before the Super Bowl, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee chairman Darrell Issa, a California Republican, and ranking Democrat Elijah Cummings of Maryland wrote NFLPA head DeMaurice Smith to chastise the union for standing in the way of HGH testing and to warn that lawmakers could ask players to testify on Capitol Hill.

Late last year, that House committee held a hearing at which medical experts testified that HGH testing is reliable and that the union's request for a population study was unnecessary. But in March, a ruling by the Court of Arbitration for Sport in a case involving a cross-country skier raised questions about the reliability of thresholds for HGH tests.

Close matches in Shirley's Badminton Classic

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Week 2 of the 2013 Shirley's Badminton Classic started with tough matches as 11 of the 16 games went the distance.

In the first set of matches last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex, Celso Agui worked his way to a 21-18, 11-21, 21-18 win over Kevin Park in the singles Class C; Joel Ortega pulled off a 21-14, 17-21, 21-18 victory against Oh Im Bog in Class B; and A.J. Ortega triumphed over Jeremy Montenejo, 21-19, 21-14, in the other Class C tiff.

For the second batch of games last Friday, two of the three matches were also completed after three games. In the women's Class B singles, Toshiko Obata edged Dianne Francisco, 21-11, 15-21, 21-16, while Park and Cai bounced back from a loss in the opening game to thwart Sando Park and You Hancheoi in the men's Class C doubles, 20-21, 21-12, 21-13. The other doubles game (Class A) saw Glenn Bluutjens and Sam Jones sweeping Ezekiel Macario and Jordan Pangilinan, 21-13, 21-17.

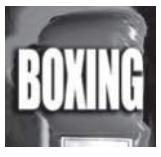
In another men's Class A doubles match, perennial rivals Andreau Galvez and Ferdie Arago also went the distance with the former winning, 21-12, 19-21, 21-15. The Galvez-Arago tiff was the lone singles play in the third batch of matches last weekend. The two others were in the doubles 35-and-over division and won by the teams of Loida Ito and Shirley Kim and Ariel Mariano and Celso Agui, who topped Gigi Zapanta and Cristy Villaflor, 21-10, 21-16, and Chris Hilario and Puy Macario, 15-21, 21-19, 21-10.

In Batch 4, Kevin Park and Montenejo took the long route in beating A.J. and Allan Ortega in the Class C doubles, 21-18, 16-21, 21-10, while in the women's Class B doubles, Obata and Anna Omori also needed three games to down Elna Curate and Loida Ito, 21-10, 20-21, 21-16. The third doubles game in Batch 4 had Joel Ortega and Oh finishing Alvin Alvarez Edwin Maratas early, 21-15, 21-13.

In the last two batches, four of the six games were completed. Panapa Peteru and Agui rallied past Yun Jun and Jong Min in their Class C doubles game, 17-21, 21-8, 21-17, while three other pairs notched victories after only two games. In the women's Class C doubles, Francisco and Roweno Sison swept Nicole Malasarte and Havikka Farro, 21-20, 21-14; Curate and Lani Santos outclassed Villaflor and Zapanta in Class B, 21-16, 21-14; and Hilario and Brendon Talania downed Jerry Tan and Park, 21-16, 21-9.

Pacquiao: My comeback starts in fight with Rios

By GREG BEACHAM
AP SPORTS WRITER



BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Manny Pacquiao will be coming off the longest layoff of his incredible career when he steps back into the ring in Macau in November.

It'll also be two years since the former pound-for-pound champion's last victory.

There's no reason to worry about any of those ominous signs, according to the genial Filipino congressman. His bout with Brandon Rios will just be the start of his comeback, not a retirement party.

"I want to prove that I can still fight, and my boxing career is not done yet," Pacquiao said Thursday in a ballroom jampacked with international media at the Beverly Hills Hotel.

Pacquiao (54-5-2, 38 KOs) was his usual serene, joking self in his last public appearance in North America before heading back to the Philippines, where he'll start training camp in October. Pacquiao is training with Freddie Roach for only six weeks, not the usual eight, because Roach doesn't want to burn out his fighter.

And for the first time in the 34-year-old Pacquiao's career, that's a legitimate concern. The eight-division champion is coming off losses to Timothy Bradley and Juan Manuel Marquez, followed by roughly 11 months of inactivity.

"I have confidence in my ability," Pacquiao said. "If you really look at my last fight, my conditioning, my killer instinct was still there. Everything was happening until that punch."

Indeed, while Pacquiao's loss to Bradley has been widely lampooned as a poor judging decision, his one-punch knockout loss to Marquez was much more persuasive. Seeing Pacquiao facedown and motionless on the Las Vegas canvas was sobering, but Roach remains publicly confident Marquez's devastating punch is a hazard of their profession.

"Manny is a realist," Roach said. "If you don't think you can get knocked out in this sport, you picked the wrong sport. He knows it can happen. It happened twice before I met Manny Pacquiao. He showed me those tapes. He wasn't embarrassed by it. He knows it's part of life in boxing. That's why he deals with it so well. It doesn't bother him."

Although Pacquiao is unshakably confident, Roach acknowledges he'll have to discuss retirement with Pacquiao if the brawling Rios (31-1-1, 22 KOs) pulls an upset at the Venetian casino, the world's newest boxing hotbed after a series of fight cards in its arena this year.

CNMI

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first semis berth in his bracket. Ren was scheduled to complete his pool play match yesterday and a win over Tahiti's Joshua Manate (3-1) would have given the former the No. 1 seeding in the semis and the right to face the No. 2 finisher in Pool B.

Schorr is in Pool B and held a 3-1 record after Day 2. After going 2-0 in Day 1, Schorr split his next two matches, beating Vanuatu's Ben Pechan in their morning match, 6-0, 6-3, before bowing to Tahiti's Gillian Osmont in the afternoon, 6-1, 6-1. Schorr was set to play his last pool game against Kiribati Banian Ioera (2-2) and must win that match to make it to the semis.

In the girls U12, two of the four semis berths were already in the bag for the CNMI, as Carol Lee and Tania Tan stayed perfect after Day 2 of the tournament. Lee shut out Vanuatu's Daisy Sipiti and Samoa's Eleanor Shuster to improve to a 4-0 record and sealed the No. 1 seed in Pool A. The 12-year-old netter has yet to lose a single game after four matches and was going for an immaculate slate yesterday against Tahiti's Naia Guitton.

In Pool B, Tan also earned a 4-0 record after Day 2 and must win her final elimination game against fellow unbeaten Lea Lamorelle to avoid a semis collision with Lee. Tan kept her perfect slate after two days of competition, following her victories over American Samoa's Lesei Perelini, 6-2, 6-0, and Vanuatu's Rosalie Molbaleh, 6-1, 6-0.

Duplicating Tan, Lee, and Ren's playoff stint were Thea Minor and Chris Cajigan. Minor went 2-0 in the girls U18 to share first place in the four-player Pool A. Minor recorded her second win against the Federated States of Micronesia's Margaret Finnen, 6-0, 6-1, and was going for a pool sweep yesterday against top seed and co-leader Annie Shannon of Fiji.

Cajigan was done with his Pool D assignments in the boys U15 division and finished first in his group with a 2-1 record. Cajigan notched the top spot in Pool D and advanced to the quarterfinals after downing the Solomon Islands' Joel Junior Benjamin, 6-4, 6-2, and edging Papua New Guinea's Mathew Stubbings in the tiebreak (37-31 games won/loss record versus the latter's 35-31 slate). Cajigan's fellow U15 player—Moris Villanueva—missed the quarterfinal round, as he placed only third in Pool C. Villanueva defeated Kiribati's Lataisi Mwea, 6-2, 6-0, in his last pool game but dropped his first two matches to fall short in his playoff bid.

In the girls U15, Tammy Ackerman and Negahr Rastguiy were fighting for the remaining semis berths in Pool A. Rastguiy had a 2-2 record after Day 2, following her loss to Fiji's Mulan Kamoe, 5-7, 2-6, and win over the host's Ruby Coffin, 6-1, 6-2. Ackerman also gained a 2-2 record after dropping all her two matches last Tuesday, bowing to Kamoe, 6-7 (5), 7-5, 4-6, and New Caledonia's and New Caledonia's Lea Bolo, 5-7, 3-6. Rastguiy and Ackerman played their final pool game yesterday and results of their last matches would have determined their semis chances.

Jake Lee was also fighting for a semis berth in the boys U18 singles. He improved to a 2-1 record in Pool B after Day 2 and must prevail over PNG's Robin Morove to avoid elimination. In Pool A, Tommy Choi and Amami Sakano were already booted out after getting 2-2 and 1-3 slates, respectively.

SAKUDI

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the fourth and fifth for a two-run lead, but lost the upper hand at the top of the seventh after committing crucial errors.

Liz Lebria led off for Sakudi at the top of the last inning and walked. She later reached home off Thelma Mizer's triple to move Sakudi within one. Mizer went on to tie the game off a Rachel Salalila RBI single. Salalia hit the ball toward third base and Gerylyn Dela Cruz struggled to pick up the ball. Salalila later avoided a tag from Dela Cruz at third base and made it home of a fielder's choice to put Sakudi on top, 11-10, with only one out. Two fly outs ended the inning for Sakudi, which went on to complete the come-from-behind win after playing good defense at the bottom of the seventh and last inning.

Pauline Camacho was first at bat for 670 Babes and got off to a good start when she connected on a single to deep center field and outfielder Connie Camacho fumbled. However, Pauline Camacho was tagged out on her attempt to steal second. Pitcher Semirina Simram was next at the plate and flied out to center, moving Sakudi one out away from clinching a three-peat. Sakudi, which had to wait for a few minutes before sealing the title win after pitcher Pina Deleon Guerrero lost third batter Kuki Pangelinan on base on ball, went on to cap its dominance in the women's division after leftfielder Kiki Aldan jumped to catch a fly ball from Dela Cruz.

Mizer led Sakudi's title victory, going 3-for-4 at the plate and scoring four RBIs. Her three-run triple at the top of the third inning brought the team back into the game after trailing in the first two innings, 1-5. Joining Mizer, Deleon Guerrero, Aldan, Lebria, Salalila, and Camacho on the champion squad are Keolani Rios, Juljean Ngeskebei, Lenise Kapileo, Janica Lizama, and Eula Matsumoto. Sakudi took this year's championship without losing a single game, as it also swept the 12 matches in the regular season.

Meanwhile, the results of the men's title showdown between Red Eye and Natibu will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Friday edition.

PIC

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two minutes of the match. PIC hung on to the precarious lead after they traded misses with Armatech and Ken McCain went 0-for-2 from the foul line.

A teardrop basket from Nevin Salem off his own miss made it a 4-point game, 61-57, less than a minute left on the clock. Salem connected on the crucial basket after missing a triple, picking up the long rebound, and going for a quick release near the right side of the free-throw area.

Down by two possessions, Armatech had a chance to move closer, but Bruce Berline split his charities, while Darwin Barbo went 2-for-2 on the other end to ice it for PIC, 16 seconds left in the game.

Barbo and Demapan finished in double figures for PIC, tallying 19 and 17 points, while Elmer Esdrelon was the only Armatech player to score in twin digits with 18. However, Esdrelon was held scoreless in the last eight minutes after drilling a triple and a bad slip early in the fourth. Armatech scored only 3 points, all from Berline, in the last 8:14 of the match.

Meanwhile, Mariana Resort outclassed KFC/Taco Bell in the other playoff match, 72-58.

After falling behind in the first period, 16-20, Mariana Resort buckled down to work in the second canto en route to the 14-point victory. Mariana Resort fired 25 points, while KFC/Taco Bell had only 14 in the second canto, putting the former in front at halftime, 41-34.

The second-quarter assault was a team effort for Mariana Resort, which also leaned on its 3-point shooting to grab control of the game from KFC. Mariana Resort connected on three triples in the second canto and kept going in the last two periods to eliminate KFC.

Elgene Mangali paced Mariana Resort with his 21 points, Rolly Paraiso added 14, while Jawn Joyner and Kelvin Fitial contributed 12 and 10, respectively.

KFC missed a semis entry, as it failed to get its offensive game going against the much taller and veteran crew of Mariana Resort. KFC scored no more than 14 points in each of the last three quarters.

First Game

Mariana Resort 72 – Mangali 21, Paraiso 14, Joyner 12, Fitial 10, Sison 5, Galarse 5, Dayrit 3.

KFC/Taco Bell 58 – Pagarao 12, Devero 11, Bahillo 10, De Guzman 8, Francisco 4, Camacho 4, Fernando 4, Brown 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-20, 41-34, 53-45, 72-58.

Second Game

PIC 63 – Barbo 19, Demapan 17, Abuy 8, Ne. Salem 6, Castro 4, Ni. Salem 2, Hambros 1.

Armatech 58 – Esdrelon 18, Talania 8, Berline 5, David 4, De Dios 4, Manalo 4, Gabaldon 3, McCain 3, Santos 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-16, 25-30, 42-50, 63-58.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	72	49	.595	–
Tampa Bay	66	51	.564	4
Baltimore	65	54	.546	6
New York	61	57	.517	9 1/2
Toronto	54	65	.454	17

Central Division

Detroit	69	49	.585	–
Cleveland	64	56	.533	6
Kansas City	62	55	.530	6 1/2
Minnesota	53	64	.453	15 1/2
Chicago	46	72	.390	23

West Division

Texas	69	51	.575	–
Oakland	67	51	.568	1
Seattle	55	63	.466	13
Los Angeles	53	65	.449	15
Houston	38	80	.322	30

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	73	47	.608	–
Washington	58	60	.492	14
New York	54	63	.462	17 1/2
Philadelphia	53	66	.445	19 1/2
Miami	45	73	.381	27

Central Division

Pittsburgh	70	48	.593	–
St. Louis	68	50	.576	2
Cincinnati	67	52	.563	3 1/2
Chicago	52	67	.437	18 1/2
Milwaukee	52	67	.437	18 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	69	50	.580	–
Arizona	61	57	.517	7 1/2
Colorado	56	65	.463	14
San Diego	54	65	.454	15
San Francisco	52	66	.441	16 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CNMI vs Macau in EAFF U18 Tournament

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The CNMI's Kennedy Izuka, left, and Enrico del Rosario double-team a Macau player during their game in the 2013 EAFF U18 Youth Tournament last Monday at the Guam National Training Center in Dededo.

The CNMI's Bo Barry sneaks into a Macau player.

CNMI and Macau players battle for the ball.

Macau and CNMI players jockey for position in this play.

The CNMI's Enrico del Rosario, left, gets an elbow from a Macau player.

CNMI players huddle before the start of the second half.

Volunteers hold the CNMI flag during the opening parade for the CNMI versus Macau game.

The CNMI's Jireh Yobech stays close to his man.

CNMI goalie Chris Aninzo gets ready for a kick.

The CNMI's Kenneth Domingo engages in a foot race against a Macau player.

Soriano homers twice, Yanks offense breaks out

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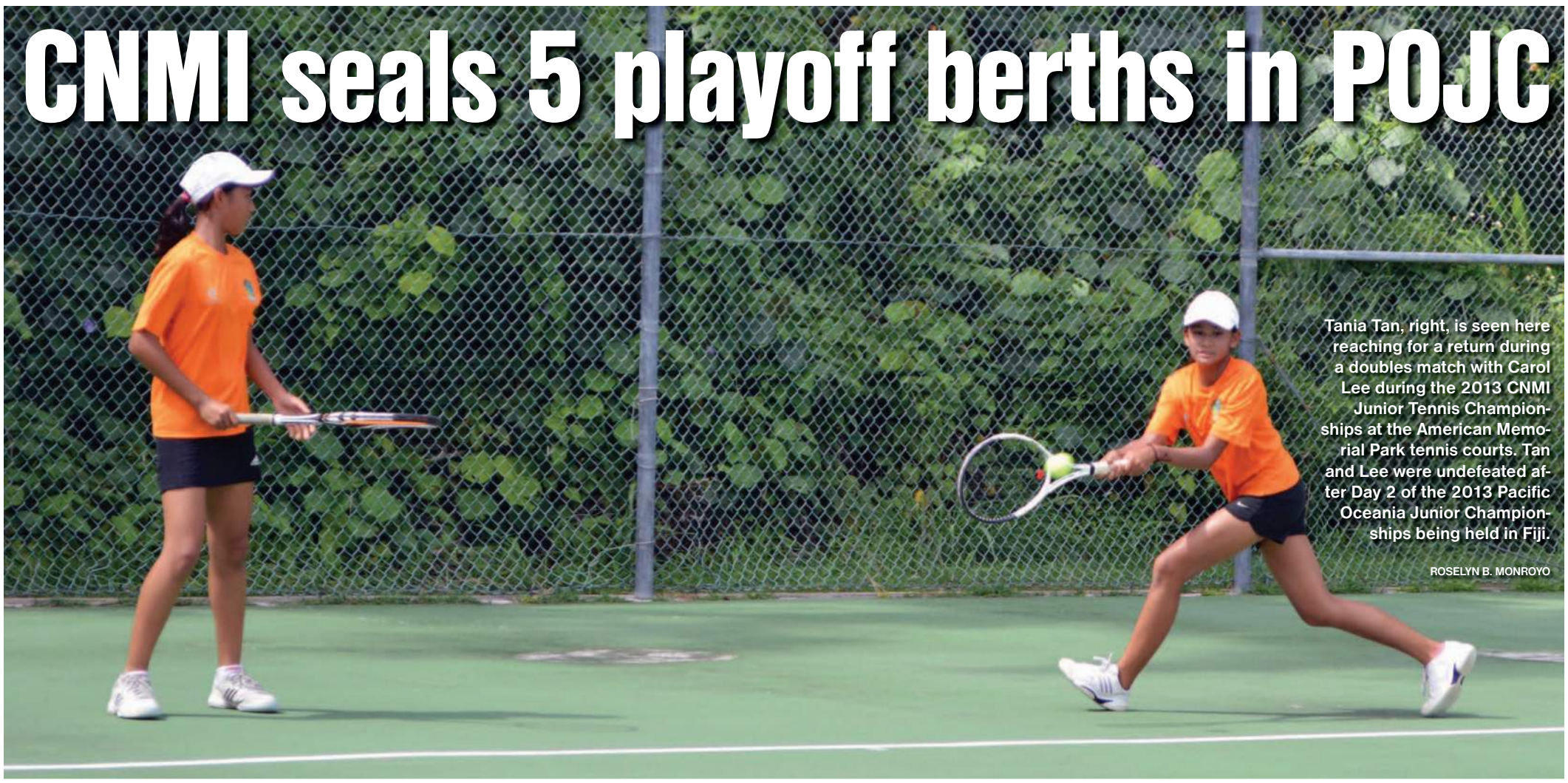
Sports

RG3 once more: 'no conflict' with Redskins coach

PAGE 25

CNMI seals 5 playoff berths in POJC



Tania Tan, right, is seen here reaching for a return during a doubles match with Carol Lee during the 2013 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships at the American Memorial Park tennis courts. Tan and Lee were undefeated after Day 2 of the 2013 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships being held in Fiji.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Five CNMI tennis players are already assured of playoff tickets in their respective divisions in the 2013 ITF Pacific Oceania Junior Championships after Day 2 games were completed last Tuesday in Fiji.

Michael Ren remained perfect (4-0) after notching two more wins in the second day of the boys U12 singles. He defeated Vanuatu's Clement Mainguy, 7-5, 6-4, and the Cook Islands' Elijah Amataiti, 7-5, 6-0, to keep the lead in Pool A and secured the

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Sakudi bags third straight title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Sakudi kept its reign in the women's division of the 2013 Budweiser Chamolinian Softball League after nosing out 670 Babes in the finals, 11-10, last Tuesday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The title win was the third in a row for Sakudi, as it also won the inaugural season against Check It Out, 28-3, before foiling 670 Babes' bid to grab the championship, winning Game 2 of the finals showdown, 11-3. 670 Babes prevailed in Game 1 of the 2012 finals, 5-4, to force a deciding Game 2 against Sakudi, which was unbeaten in the playoff to earn the twice-to-beat advantage.

The eventual three-time champions also got the twice-to-beat edge in this year's championship duel and this time closed out the finals early to give 670 Babes another bridesmaid finish.

670 Babes boosted its chances of stealing the championship from Sakudi when it led, 10-8, after six innings. 670 Babes collected five runs in the first two innings and bagged five more in

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Sakudi's Keolani Rios eyes the ball during the top of the seventh inning of their title game against 670 Babes in the Chamolinian softball league last Tuesday night at the Capital Bill Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Pacific Islands Club's Darwin Barbo gets a high-give from teammate Bart Demapan after making his first free throw in the closing seconds of their playoff game against Armatech in the Emon Lodge caging last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

PIC, Mariana Resort make semis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

It's payback time for Pacific Islands Club.

After losing to Armatch and eventually missing an outright semis stint, Pacific Islands Club got its sweet revenge, pulling off a come-from-behind 63-58 win in their playoff match in the Emon Lodge No. 179 Brotherhood Basketball League last Tuesday night at the packed Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The 5-point victory was a complete reversal of PIC's fate just four days ago when it wasted a 13-point advantage in the fourth quarter and lost to Armatech in the last game of the regular season, 64-67. The defeat denied PIC an automatic entry to the semifinals so the San Antonio-based team was itching for vengeance and got it, eliminating Armatech from the competition.

It was Armatech's turn to have a major breakdown when it bungled a 13-point lead, 55-42, in the 8:14 mark of the win-or-go home playoff match. A backbreaking 15-0 run for about five minutes wiped out Armatech's double-digit advantage and put PIC on top, 57-55. Bart Demapan capped the big rally with his two charities and scored 8 in the nearly five-minute scoring spree.

A breakaway basket from Bruce Berline off a steal from PIC's frontcourt stopped the bleeding for Armatech, but Demapan answered with a baseline jumper to put his team on top anew, 59-57, going into the final

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